

Hafa Adai!

Okeanos Pohnpei provides health care transport. **PAGE 3**

Ex-employer removed as administrator of David's estate. **PAGE 5**

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 198

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY OCTOBER 7, 2019

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Govt, classes closed today

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

All government offices and public schools are closed today, with a typhoon warning remaining in effect on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan as of 8:45pm yesterday.

Typhoon conditions, including destructive winds of 74 mph or more, are expected.

Damaging winds of 39 mph or more are expected within 24

See GOVT on Page 4

DLNR: Rhino beetle found in Aguiguan

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources confirmed that the carcass of a coconut

rhinoceros beetle was found on Aguiguan, also known as the Goat Island, after social media posts circulated online.

DLNR Secretary Anthony

See DLNR on Page 4



The Department of Lands and Natural Resource show a specimen of the coconut rhinoceros beetle that was reportedly found on Aguiguan in early October 2019.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Piailug undergoes sacred 'Pwo' initiation

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The sacred initiation of "Pwo" for Antonio "Tony" Urmeyang Piailug began Saturday at the

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' canoe house in Susupe in a ceremony that will last until Tomorrow, Oct. 8.

Piailug, who started sailing as

See PIAILUG on Page 4

Grand master navigators Ali Haleylur and Sesario Sewralur carrying out the sacred initiation of "Pwo" for Antonio "Tony" Urmeyang Piailug, center, last Saturday at the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture Seafaring Traditions Canoe House in Susupe.

IVA MAURIN

INSIDE



LOCAL

Leonora Aldan Blas remains the only female brown tree snake canine handler in the CNMI.

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NATION

For the first time, the impeachment inquiry reached directly into the White House.

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ASIA

Defying a government ban, thousands of masked protesters cram the streets of Hong Kong.

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Local

Leonora Aldan Blas: The CNMI's first and only female BTS canine handler

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Editor's Note: This article is part of "Spotlight," a recurring series featuring CNMI personalities. To suggest a person to feature in this section, email us at editor@saipantribune.com.

Six years ago, Leonora Aldan Blas made history and became the first and—so far—the only female brown tree snake canine handler on the island.

Blas, with the rest of the BTS canine handlers, protects the CNMI from the potential damage brown tree snakes could bring to the islands, particularly to the ecology and the economy.

"Being a BTS canine handler is important because we do not want any brown tree snake to come in to the CNMI. We need to protect our island for the future of our children," Blas emphasized.

A week ago, Blas completed the CNMI Brown Tree Snake Canine Handler Training Program of the Department of

Lands and Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife. At the program's "graduation" ceremony, she was heralded by DFW director Manny M. Pangelinan for being the first female BTS canine handler on the island.

"I feel like a canine handler now," Blas said, after having been paired with one of CNMI's three new dogs, Travis, through the program. "Before, I never felt like a canine handler, but now I am very proud."

SPOTLIGHT

Blas is particularly proud that the care of Travis has been entrusted to her. "As a canine handler, we have to team up to do our job, we have to spend a lot of hours to learn and get to know each other."

In her job, she considers dealing with containers as her biggest challenge, but she has no problems as far as working with her dog, saying she enjoys taking care of and working with Travis.

Blas also looked back and recalled the time when she learned about the job, and asked if she could apply as a



Leonora Aldan Blas, the CNMI's first and only female BTS canine handler, pats her dog, Travis.

IVA MAURIN

handler. She was told that she would be the first female on Saipan to have this kind of canine-handling skill.

"I started out hunting for a job, anything for me, because

I'm a single parent [and] anything that came up would [have been] okay," Blas said. "But then, when I got on board, I liked it, and I wanted to pursue being a canine

handler."

Blas has five children—one girl and four boys. Thankfully, her children do not get jealous of the attention she lavishes on Travis, especially since

she has to spend a lot of time with the dog. Blas said her children love dogs and animals, and that her children are there for her.

Blas also hopes that her daughter could be the next female BTS canine handler.

"I hope so!" Blas said when asked if she wants her daughter to become a canine handler like her. "Whenever I bring her to work, she is like, 'Mom, can I work with you with your dog?'"

Blas also said her daughter pets the dog whenever she brings her daughter to the DFW office, or if she goes home with the dog. While her daughter can't walk Travis, Blas says her daughter loves dogs.

"I hope she can be the next [female BTS canine handler]."

As a woman succeeding in a profession dominated by men, Blas has one strong message of empowerment for other women.

"I encourage young girls to find a job where there is not a lot of women," Blas said. "I myself is in one, and I am so proud that I am a female canine handler."

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Okeanos Pohnpei provides health care transport

The traditional, fossil fuel-free sailing canoe *Okeanos Pohnpei* departed last Sept. 20 on a scheduled trip for the mayor of Pingelap, transporting 6,000 lbs of goods and six passengers from Pohnpei to Pingelap.

Upon their arrival into Pingelap, the crew of *Okeanos Pohnpei* learned that seven people—composed mostly of sick patients including a pregnant woman with complications—needed immediate transport to Pohnpei to seek critical medical treatment.

With a swift response, *Okeanos Pohnpei* took the passengers on board and sailed 160 nautical miles back to Pohnpei within 28 hours, voyaging against the westerly wind while also carrying 2,000 lbs of cargo.

Upon arriving at the Pohnpei dock, an ambulance at the dock took the pregnant patient immediately to the hospital. At that time, the ship was manned by *Okeanos Pohnpei* captain Clement Urseram and crew members Tyron Jano, Gino Ladore and Delensa Sackryas.

Since its arrival in November 2018, *Okeanos Pohnpei* has been dedicated to providing sustainable sea transportation to Pohnpei's neighboring island communities. The 50-foot vaka motu, or "boat for the islands," is a double-hulled, Pacific sailing canoe designed to run solely on renewable resources: wind, solar energy and coconut biofuel.

Fourteen Micronesian sailors from Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap have been trained to safely operate the *Okeanos* vaka motus, receiving three months of training at the *Okeanos* Maritime Training Center in Auckland. Jano, Ladore and Sackryas sailed over 3,000 nautical miles in preparation for their roles aboard *Okeanos Pohnpei*, which has



Okeanos Pohnpei is en route to Kolonia during its 4,000-mile fossil fuel-free maiden voyage, drawing a stark comparison to diesel-powered cargo ships.

CHEWY LIN



Okeanos Pohnpei crew members Tyron Jano, left, and Gino Ladore load cargo in preparation for their trip to Pingelap.

ALAN SEMENS



Federated States of Micronesia President David W. Panuelo steers the *hoi* of *Okeanos Pohnpei*.

DENA SEIDEL

now serviced over eight outer island communities, including Sapwuhfik, Nukuoro, Kapin-gamarangi, Pingelap, Ngatik, Pakin, and Mwoakilloa.

Okeanos Pohnpei supports the country's goals for regular, reliable and safe sea transportation between the islands to support adequate health care, education, research, and local food transport. In doing so, the vaka is also used for empowering people and communities,

reviving traditional seafaring and navigation skills, and creating local opportunities.

Okeanos Pohnpei and her fully trained Micronesian crew came to Kolonia at the request of Gov. Marcelo Pettersen who sought to provide more regular sea transportation to each of Pohnpei's outer island communities.

"I know *Okeanos* will play a big and major role in how we provide easy, accessible, reliable and even improved quality of healthcare to the other island populations of Pohnpei," said Pohnpei state director of Health Kapilly Capelle, who has expressed the difficulties in providing regular health care services to all five of Pohnpei's outer islands—three of which are inaccessible by plane.

"What I want to tell the world about *Okeanos* is that the technology is amazing,

unique and perceptive to our island settings. We can now get to our islands with or without fuel and then be able to provide the services that we would otherwise have to wait for a year for a cargo ship using fossil fuels. What *Okeanos* envisioned and is now literally doing for the islands...is a new era and, as far as the Department of Health Services for Pohnpei is concerned, we are fully supportive," said Capelle.

Last month, FSM President David W. Panuelo sailed aboard *Okeanos Pohnpei* in support of this alternate form of fossil fuel-free transportation.

"As indigenous people reviving our way of life, we can also show how we can revive this traditional way of [sailing] transportation," said Panuelo, who hopes to establish tradition-based, fossil fuel-free bus routes throughout FSM using the *Okeanos* vakas to provide regular, safe and reliable transportation to outer island communities.

There are currently three *Okeanos* vakas operating in FSM (*Okeanos Pohnpei*, *Okeanos Ambassador* and *Okeanos Waa'qab*) and Panuelo expressed pride in the crew's professionalism.

To charter a sail with *Okeanos Pohnpei*, contact operations manager Alan Semens at alan.semens@okeanos-pohnpei.org. (PR)

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Parking violation case vs inmate is dismissed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man whom the Office of the Attorney General had charged with a traffic offense after his vehicle was allegedly found parked and unattended in an intersection in Garapan last February turned out to be in prison since 2017.

The OAG on Friday moved to drop the traffic case against Xin Qiang Zheng for parking violation. The dismissal was without prejudice, which means the OAG may re-file the case in the future.

The OAG filed the motion to dismiss after assistant public defender Stephanie Boutsicaris, counsel for Zheng, moved last Tuesday for the dismissal of the case with prejudice.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted the OAG's request to dismiss without prejudice and the case is now closed.

In Zheng's motion to dismiss, Boutsicaris said that Zheng's vehicle was allegedly found parked and unattended last Feb. 4, 2019. Zheng, however, has been incarcerated since May 12, 2017 and is expected to remain in custody until May 2020, Boutsicaris said.

Boutsicaris said Zheng does not believe that the prosecution will dispute that he has been in custody since May 2017 and was in custody at the time of the alleged traffic offense.

The defense counsel said defendant believes the prosecution will proceed on a theory that a registered owner of a

vehicle is strictly liable for any parking violations if his vehicle is found unattended at the time of the violation.

Boutsicaris said a parking violation is not the strict liability of the registered owner. Rather, the lawyer said, vehicle ownership merely creates a prima facie presumption.

"A prima facie presumption is equivalent to a rebuttable presumption," she said, adding that a rebuttable presumption "may be overcome by the introduction of contrary evidence."

Here, Boutsicaris said, Zheng will be able to introduce strong contrary evidence to this presumption, and defendant does not believe the prosecution will dispute the contrary evidence.

Boutsicaris said Zheng was

in custody at the time of this alleged parking violation and did not park the vehicle.

In May 2017, the OAG charged Zheng with four drug-related offenses before the Superior Court.

In August 2017, Zheng pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance, crystal methamphetamine.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio sentenced Zheng to three years of imprisonment, with credit for time served (May 2017 to Oct. 18, 2017).

Kim-Tenorio ordered the defendant to serve the three-year prison term day for day, without the possibility of parole, early release.

Zeng was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine.

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GOVT

From Page 1

hours or this afternoon.

All CNMI government offices will be closed today and all Public School System and Northern Marianas College classes are cancelled.

A tropical storm watch remains in effect for Guam. Tropical storm conditions, including damaging winds of 39 mph or more, are possible within 24 to 30 hours.

Hagibis, which is a Filipino term that means “velocity” or “swiftness,” got started east of the CNMI and is continuing west but slightly farther south than before. It is projected to head toward the Northern Islands of the CNMI today or tomorrow.

Shelters on Saipan and Tinian have been activated, while some government agencies were available yesterday to help residents break down tents that have been in place since Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the CNMI late last year.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. office will be open today from 7:30am to 12pm to include the CUC Customer Center on Saipan, Tinian and Rota for purchasing of prepaid tokens, payments and other transactions. Offices will close soon after to give employees time to secure and further prepare for the storm.

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam said that Tropical Storm Hagibis con-

tinues to develop and whirl toward the Marianas.

As of 8pm yesterday, Tropical Storm Hagibis was located about 510 miles east of Saipan, 515 miles east of Tinian, 540 miles east of Rota, about 545 miles east-southeast of Alamagan, about 565 miles east-southeast of Pagan, about 575 miles east of Guam, and about 590 miles east-southeast of Agrihan and was moving west at 20 mph. Maximum sustained winds were at 50mph.

It is expected to maintain a westward motion before turning slightly to the west-northwest today with a slight decrease in forward speed. This current track sends Hagibis through the Marianas just north of Saipan Monday night as a typhoon.

Maximum sustained winds remain at 60 mph. Hagibis will intensify through the night, possibly becoming a typhoon Monday morning.

Tropical storm force winds extend outward from the center up to 100 miles.

Typhoon condition 2 remains over Saipan, Tinian, Alamagan, and Pagan. That means that damaging winds of 74 mph or more are expected within 24 hours. Tropical storm condition 2 remains over Rota and Agrihan

The CNMI Multi-Agency Coordination Team, composed of government agencies and non-profit organizations, met yesterday for a heavy weather briefing provided by the NWS and held a planning

and coordination meeting to prepare for Hagibis’ closest point of approach tonight.

The U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port for Guam has established Port Heavy Weather Condition “Y” for the ports of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, CNMI as of 8pm last night.

That means gale force winds are predicted to arrive within 24 hours.

All commercial vessels greater than or equal to 200 gross tons must depart and all inbound vessels are prohibited from entering. All pleasure craft shall seek sheltered waters.

Govt, public schools closed

As of 2:40pm yesterday, acting governor Arnold I. Palacios informed all CNMI government department and activity heads that all government offices in the CNMI will be closed today until further notice.

“Because of the anticipated threat of Tropical Storm Hagibis, I have upgraded the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Paga, and Agrihan to Tropical Storm Condition II,” Palacios stated in a 2:43pm bulletin.

“All government offices in the Commonwealth will be closed on Monday, Oct. 7, 2019, until further notice,” the statement noted. “The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, through the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, will maintain a 24-hour operation, monitor the

movement of Tropical Storm Hagibis, and issue bulletins as they become available.”

PSS and NMC both announced that they will be cancelling classes and closing offices today. Education Commissioner Glenn Muña said that Koblerville Elementary School, Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and Tinian Elementary School will be used as emergency shelters for residents who may need to evacuate.

The Governor’s Office also deemed the Aging Center as a shelter, however, it is only used for medical needs.

Mount Carmel School and Grace Christian Academy have also announced that there will be no classes today, while Saipan Community School and Saipan International School said they continue to monitor the approach of the storm but school is still on for Monday.

Several businesses like The Shack Saipan and Techniq Yummy Bytes have also informed the public they could be closed today due to the threat of Hagibis.

Assistance for people in tents

Residents who are residing in tents, if able, are advised to go to the shelter closest to them for care, support, and relief during the rainy conditions. The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority has been activated to provide transportation to shelters throughout the day and can be contacted at

(670) 664-2690 for transportation to designated shelters.

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services with the support from the Department of Corrections, the Saipan Mayor’s Office, and the Department of Public Works have been activated yesterday to assist residents break down their tents; residents can contact (670) 237-2800 for assistance as operators are on standby ready to assist.

Mobil and Shell gas stations saw long lines of people wanting to gas up yesterday; the average wait times were around 30 minutes to an hour. Gas lines are expected to fill up as consumers are preparing for the possibility of gas stations closing today.

Grocery stores were also jam-packed with customers yesterday, eager to stock up on essential supplies for the coming storm.

CHCC provides shelter to high-risk group

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. said it will provide shelter to pregnant mothers who are at least 32 weeks pregnant, and women experiencing preterm labor.

Expectant mothers are

asked to check in at the Labor and Delivery ward of the CHCC (residents of Tinian and Rota should report to the Tinian and Rota health centers respectively) where they will be assessed for either admission or the option to shelter on-site in a designated area.

Monitoring is key

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, through the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning point, will maintain a 24-hour operation, monitor the movement of Tropical Storm Hagibis. The Governor’s Office advises the community to keep a close watch on updates to weather forecasts and stay informed on the latest statements and advisories through the EOC’s Facebook page or call (670) 237-8000 or (670) 664-800, the CNMI EOC State Warning Point will be providing a contact frequency for those in the Northern Islands at high frequency single side band radio at 5.205.0, NWS Guam’s Facebook page, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Weather broadcast at 211 on your phones. *(With report from Erwin Encinares)*

DLNR

From Page 1

Benavente confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend that a group of hikers who recently visited Aguiguan found the dried-out body of a mature coconut rhino beetle on the island as they explored.

Although they were on the island without permission, Benavente noted that his office contacted the group of hikers, which reportedly consisted of four to five members, after photos surfaced online.

“They found the [remains of the beetle] on the ground [while resting]. ...The group took it and brought it here [to Saipan]. They posted it on Facebook and reported it,” Benavente told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

The beetle had its head detached; the specimen that was already with Benavente included what is believed to be its detached head.

Following the report, Benavente noted that Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan called DLNR to organize a trip to Aguiguan. The group, which would be composed of individuals

trained on quarantining the coconut rhinoceros beetle, would set for the island sometime this week, Benavente said.

Saipan Tribune reached out to Aldan over the weekend but was unsuccessful.

Benavente said the team would be going toward the hiker group’s resting spot on the island, which he noted was specifically pinpointed by the group.

“We will be heading there [this week] with our Saipan team and Tinian teams to really determine if [the coconut rhino beetle] is there, because

the [hiker group] found it. They only found a dead one,” Benavente said.

He further noted that, according to Aldan, the group did not have permission to enter Aguiguan. Standard procedure would require special permission from the Tinian Mayor’s Office before anyone can set foot on Aguiguan.

Coconut rhino beetles are nocturnal and breed on the coconut’s upper cone, killing the tree in the process. A female coconut rhino beetle can lay as much as 50 eggs and are considered a pest.

tract ends, and to address job uncertainty, U-TOP assures existing employees that the handover will not result in a loss of jobs. This will be discussed with Tasi Tours,” the representative further noted.

Citing DPL, the U-TOP representative noted that there will be no less than 90 to 120 days to transition between the existing and new concessionaire to minimize service interruptions.

“There are many moving parts in [these] concession operations and U-TOP looks forward to working with DPL and Tasi Tours,” the representative told *Saipan Tribune*.

number, for comment Thursday regarding the effectivity of the new contract. Teregeyo ignored several calls on Thursday and on Friday, all from *Saipan Tribune*, even despite one call that suggested that she was actively making calls at the time.

As for the transition of operating the concessions, U-TOP promises that it would work with DPL to ensure a “seamless transition.”

“DPL will schedule a joint meeting with Tasi Tours and U-TOP to discuss transition and employees,” the representative noted.

“In situations where a con-

portedly set an official start date for operations under the new management, which was awarded to U-TOP, the representative further noted.

In a DPL social media post last Oct. 4, 2019, at 8:14am, the agency referred to a previous *Saipan Tribune* article referring to the effectivity of the five-year contract awarded to U-TOP as “inaccurate reporting.”

“Tasi Tours is still operating the concession,” the agency posted along with a photo of that day’s paper.

Saipan Tribune reached out to DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo, on her personal phone

U-TOP

From Page 1

quest for proposal previously published by the Department of Public Lands.

“U-TOP received an ‘award letter’ on June 4, 2019. U-TOP signed the contract on Aug. 19, 2019. DPL signed on Aug. 26, 2019. [The Attorney General] signed on Sept. 6, 2019,” the U-TOP representative stated in response to *Saipan Tribune*. “The contract is in effect because all signatures were affixed on the agreement.”

However, DPL has not re-

PIAILUG

From Page 1

a young boy with his father, feels great about the initiation, adding that he has already proven his prowess in sailing from Saipan to Palau and to Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia, relying on his traditional knowledge of “wayfinding.”

“I have been sailing with my dad since when I was a young boy. I have been traveling for more than 40 years,” said Piailug.

Piailug is the son of grand master navigator Pius “Mau” Piailug, and the brother of grand master navigator Sesarío Sewralur, who is carrying out the sacred initiation with Ali Haleyalur, also a grand master navigator.

“This is very important,” Piailug said, referring to the initiation rites. “We have all these days to [learn how to] prepare before going out sailing, taking care of who is [going to] be with you on your boat, know all things like that. So, it’s very important to me.”

“Pwo” is a sacred ritual for individuals who are initiated into the secrets of master navigators, and who have successfully concluded a rigorous course of training in traditional wayfinding.

DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter said Piailug’s initiation into becoming a master navigator is exciting for their

office. Piailug co-manages the DCCA’s seafaring traditions program, with a project to build the first large-scale Chamorro oceangoing vessel in 200 years.

“It is exciting,” Hunter said. “It is quite exciting for us, because he’ll [Piailug] be here and he is trying to help us right now relearn the craft of Chamorro canoe-making, and then to teach celestial navigation. That’s the project they have ongoing right now, to build the first large-scale Chamorro oceangoing vessel probably in 200 years.”

The sacred initiation is the first recorded “Pwo” ceremony to happen in the Northern Marianas. A “Pwo” ceremony was held three years ago in Guam but most of these sacred initiations are held in other parts of Micronesia.

Piailug is also reaching out to members of the community who want to learn traditional navigation,

“We’re trying to teach to pass [the knowledge of traditional navigation] on. My message is if [people] want to learn, we welcome them to come and learn if they want to be a future navigator.”

The “Pwo” ceremony, which will conclude on Oct. 8 at 11am, is made possible by the DCCA-Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, in partnership with the Carolinian Affairs Office, Indigenous Affairs Office and Palau Community College.

Ex-employer removed as administrator of David's estate

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing conflicting duties, the Superior Court has removed the former employer of an electrician who died and left behind \$20,794 in a bank account, as the administrator of the deceased worker's estate.

In an order last Friday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled that Juan A. Gacayan's representation to the court that the estate of Eduardo Ocampo David had no debt gives cause to the court to question whether Gacayan understood his duties as the estate's administrator.

Camacho said Gacayan had conflicting duties as both a creditor of David's estate and the administrator.

"Although an administrator can also be a creditor, such potential conflicts must be clearly disclosed," the judge said.

Camacho granted the request of David's siblings/heirs to, instead, name Christopher G. Imbo as the estate

administrator.

Imbo, who is said to be a family friend of David's family, is a resident of the CNMI. He was given the full authority to administer David's estate and to serve without bond.

There is a 60-day period for anyone to object to Imbo's appointment.

David was reportedly an employee of Gacayan from Oct. 1, 2017, to Sept. 30, 2018. David, a Filipino, passed away at the age of 60 at the Commonwealth Health Center on Oct. 15, 2018. His remains were brought to the Philippines last November.

Prior to David's death, he reportedly suffered a major stroke and was admitted and remained at CHC for approximately two months under 24-hour care.

Gacayan recently disclosed that there is a potential claim by CHC for David's hospital bill in the total amount of \$240,077 that Gacayan received from CHC after David died.

The Philippine-based six sib-

lings/heirs of David, through counsel Charity Hodson, have opposed Gacayan's request to remain the administrator.

Camacho heard the case last Sept. 26. Gacayan testified at the hearing.

In his order on Friday, Camacho ruled that an amended petition to administer the estate is not necessary as the petition has already been filed in this case.

Camacho noted that Gacayan attempted to do some good things during his appointment as the administrator, but also incurred debt in the amount of \$5,000 on behalf of the estate without court approval.

The judge found that Gacayan had access to communication with the heirs (siblings) but failed to provide them notice.

"One power of attorney for one family member does not impute knowledge to all of the family members and further does not empower the subject of the power of attorney to act on behalf of all family members," he said.

Although Gacayan's failure to list all debt on a petition for letters of administration is

not fatal, Camacho said the bigger issue is the Gacayan coming before the court as the administrator and telling the court that there was no debt in the estate.

Camacho said whether a power of attorney was in place or not, and administrator's fi-

duciary duty to the estate always applies.

Joey Patrick San Nicolas is counsel for Gacayan. Rosemond Santos withdrew as the original counsel for Gacayan.

Last June, Camacho expressed concern since an employer is not an heir of the

decendent when there is no will that expressly states that such employer will get an inheritance upon a person's death.

Gacayan's original petition asked the court to allow him to inherit David's money in the bank.



Camacho

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OUR FIFTH ANNUAL ART CONTEST IS DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO SUFFERED AND BRAVED THROUGH SUPER TYPHOON YUTU. FAITH & HOPE WILL NEVER FAIL US, ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF TROUBLE. WE WILL RECOVER AS ONE COMMUNITY BECAUSE WE ARE MARIANAS STRONG.

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- SLOGAN "FAITH & HOPE POST SUPER TYPHOON YUTU"
- MEDIUMS: WATER, PASTEL, OIL, CRAYON, PENCIL
- DIMENSIONS NOT TO EXCEED 11" X 14"

SUBMIT

- DEADLINE: OCTOBER 11, 2019 - 3:00 PM.
- INDICATE: FULL NAME, CONTACT INFO, AGE, SCHOOL NAME.
- DROP ORIGINAL PIECE AT PACIFICA'S OFFICE LOCATED IN SUSUPE.

WIN

- JUDGING CRITERIA: CREATIVITY, THEME, QUALITY AND PRESENTATION.
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Military sets trainings

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training today, Oct. 7, from 8am to 2pm, at Warning Area 12 and Warning Area 517.

W-12 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-12 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks will remain closed.

The Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises today, Oct. 7, from 7-11pm, within a 10-nautical-mile radius of the following coordinates: 13°26’N/145°08’E and 13°42’N/144°36’E.

The Navy will also conduct open-ocean exercises today, Oct. 7, from 8am to 2pm and from 3pm to 5pm, and on Oct. 8, from 4pm to 10pm.

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training on Oct. 7-10, from 11am to 11:55pm, at the Dandan-Malojloj training site in Inarajan.

HSC-25 will also conduct training on Oct. 10, from 6:30pm to 11pm, in Radio Barrigada.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during these trainings. from 6:30-11pm. (PR)

Hindu community in CNMI celebrates Durga Pooja

The Hindu community in the CNMI is celebrating the Navarathri and Durga Pooja this October, a time to honor the Hindu goddess Durga.

The five-day celebration, being held at the Sri Radha Krishna Temple in Chalan Kanoa, started last Friday. Pooja Timings for the celebration continues today, from 6:30pm to 9:30pm (Maha Nabami) and on Friday, Oct. 8, from 11am to 11:30pm (Maha Dashomi).

“According to the Hindu belief, the Durga Puja festival marks the battle of Goddess Durga with the powerful buffalo demon Mahishasura, symbolizing the goddess emerging victorious over evil,” Hindu community treasurer Anand R. Katta said in a statement.

The season also coincides with the harvest festival that marks the goddess as the motherly power giving rise to all life and creation.

Celebrated worldwide for 10 days, the first nine nights are spent in the worship of goddess Durga. These nights are known as “Navaratri.”

“Hindus believe it to be a very auspicious day and that if any new venture is started on this day, it is bound to be successful,” Katta said. “Hence, all the undertakings, whether it is laying of foundation of a new building, opening of a new commercial establishment, or even initiating a child into the world of learning, is started on this day.”

In addition, tools related to and symbolizing work and agriculture, including manufacturer’s machines, pen, certain household articles, the children’s school books, are placed before the idol of Durga and worshipped on this day.

The public is invited to join the Hindu community in the celebration.

For more information, contact Tarun Mondal at 783-2436, Tapan Shaha at 287-8273, Suresh at 287-2924, Noni Sarkar at 285-5858, or Akhil Mollic at 287-3600. (Iva Maurin)

Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

and the **Veterans' Affairs Committee**
of the **U.S. House of Representatives**

announce a

Veterans' Listening Session

Monday, October 7, 2019
9:00AM-11:00AM
American Memorial Park
Visitor Center Theater

Veterans will have the opportunity to share issues and concerns with the Chairman and Members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

For questions, please contact your Congressional Office at 670-323-2647.



Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.

CUC corrected water problem; no need to boil water

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was able to resolve the e-coli problem in its drinking water system last Saturday and advised that that there is no longer any need to boil the water before use.

CUC notified water system customers Friday about a problem with the drinking wa-

ter and advised its customers to boil their water before use in the affected area of the Isley Tank Service.

The affected areas were Koblerville, Chalan Piao, Afetnas, Chalan Kanoa, Su-supe, San Antonio, and Oleai (San Jose).

In a press release last Sa-

turday, CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said the chlorination equipment has been repaired and water operators continue to ensure that the water distributed has adequate amounts of chlorine, which meets the drinking water requirements of the Bureau of Environment and Coastal

Quality and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Camacho said the samples collected last Friday were absent of total coliform and E. coli bacteria.

Last Thursday, CUC found E. coli bacteria in the water supply, prompting the utilities agency to issue a warning to customers in the affected areas.

E. coli bacteria can make peo-

ple sick especially those have weakened immune systems.

CUC said bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source, such as heavy rains. CUC said it can also happen due to a break in the waterpipes or a failure in the water treatment process.

Last Friday, CUC announced that they found out

that an equipment failure caused the amount of chlorine to be too low to treat the water in the Isley Reservoir.

Camacho said that water operators repaired the problem last Thursday, to provide adequate amount of chlorine.

Camacho said the Isley Reservoir had adequate amounts of chlorine in the system last Friday.

‘Just Culture’ training at CHCC

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a bid to align the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.’s practices and commitment to safe quality care with other organizations, its staff recently went through training sessions about fostering a “Just Culture” in a healthcare setting.

Fostering a just culture means creating an environ-

ment where employees understand that, in order to correct mistakes and deficiencies, people need to speak up and report incidents and, by focusing on behaviors and process improvement, have an open and honest discussion about an incident and how it can be fixed and how to address behaviors which contributed to the incident.

The “Just Culture” training

is a standard practice in many healthcare settings in the U.S. mainland.

The CHCC training featured Adam Archuleta and Dr. John Meeth from Badger Health and Associates LLC, and the training was held from Aug. 26 to Sept. 6, 2019.

All CHCC staff were required to attend a session, including staff from the Tinian and Rota health centers, who attended the trainings through video calls. The training went over several subjects relating to patient safety and overall accountability at CHCC, with

a focus on fostering what is known as a “Just Culture.”

At the end of the trainings, CHCC staff at all levels must understand the importance of being accountable to themselves, other co-workers, and patients for the choices they make in delivering safe, high quality care.

The training and exercises focused on situations in a patient-centered clinical setting, and the lessons learned will be applied broadly throughout the corporation in order to strengthen ownership and accountability to improve CHCC’s services to the community.

CHCC keeping a vigilant watch vs dengue

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the number of dengue fever cases in Guam now at 12 and eight being locally acquired, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is keeping tabs on the dengue outbreaks in neighboring Pacific Islands and urges the community to remain vigilant in the fight against the dengue virus, which is transmitted through mosquito bites.

The reports of the disease appearing in Guam have heightened alerts in the CNMI, prompting CHCC to advise travelers last Sept. 23 to take precautions when traveling to Guam. Guam reported a total of 10 dengue fever cases as of Sept. 21.

CHCC advises those who plan to travel off-island to use insect repellents and dress appropriately when outdoors to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes while off-islands and for at least two weeks after returning to the CNMI.

It is reported that only one in four individuals who are infected with the dengue virus will develop symptoms, but infected individuals without any symptoms can still be bitten by mosquitoes and pass on the infection to another person, so it is important to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes when returning to the CNMI until there is no chance of passing the virus.

To prevent the possibility of a dengue outbreak occurring in the CNMI, CHCC’s Bureau of Environmental Health is working with the Saipan Mayor’s Office, the Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality, Department of Public Lands, and the CNMI Zoning Office by inspecting residential properties to help eradicate mosquito breeding sites. The inspections started in areas worst-affected

by Super Typhoon Yutu, and are being done on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, as well as Saturdays as needed. Inspections are currently being conducted in Koblerville, and will move toward Aftena and San Antonio.

BEH deploys two-to-three person teams, and they are identified by the bright green or yellow vests that they wear. The BEH stressed that the purpose of these inspections is not to cite residents, but to help identify problem areas where mosquitoes breed, assisting in resolving the problem, and providing educational information on clean up and mosquito prevention to residents. BEH inspectors will also refer residents to appropriate services and agencies as necessary for further assistance.

The symptoms of dengue vary, from fevers and chills, to pain behind the eyes, rashes, nausea, vomiting, or joint pains. If you experience any of these symptoms, CHCC urges you to see a doctor right away. All travelers returning from an area with a dengue outbreak are being advised at customs to protect against mosquito bites for at least two weeks, and are being given educational material to take home.

CHCC reports that the best way to protect yourself and your family against dengue is to follow its “Fight the Bite” initiative. This initiative advises individuals to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and eliminating mosquito breeding areas in and around homes by using the following precautions: use insect repellent, wear appropriate clothing to avoid bites, put screens on windows and doors to repel the entry of mosquitoes, and to be careful during sunrise and sunset, as mosquitoes are most active on those times.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-029

MAUI 4 WATER TANK DEMOLITION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified contractors for the demolition of the Maui 4 Water Tank located in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 9, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-029 Maui 4 Water Tank Demolition"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 25, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bids shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 15, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Acting Drinking Water/Wastewater Manager, Yvonne Cabrera via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Rota official pleads not guilty to importing contraband

A Rota official has pleaded not guilty to the charge that she imported undeclared household goods to Rota last year.

Rota Mayor's Office's special assistant for programs and grants Aubry Hocog, through counsel Joaquin DLG Torres, pleaded not guilty to the information charging her with one count of importation of contraband.

The arraignment was held before Presiding Roberto C.

Naraja at the Rota Superior Court last Friday, Sept. 27. Chief prosecutor John Bradley appeared for the government. Naraja issued the minutes of the hearing Thursday last week.

Naraja set a status conference for Oct. 25, 2019, at 9am at the Rota Superior Court.

Hocog was not arrested as she was only summoned to appear in court to answer the charge.

According to the informa-

tion filed by assistant attorney general Frances T. Demapan, on June 17, 2018 on Rota, Hocog brought into Rota some household goods without declaring them. despite the total sum of the items being subject to excise tax.

Demapan said the items included seven doors, one refrigerator, one washer, one dryer, 20 tiles, one bunk bed, and four paint buckets. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

FEMA to host Industry Day on Oct. 15

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency needs the help of local small businesses in its efforts to respond to disasters on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In line with this, FEMA will be hosting an "Industry Day" on Oct. 15 to reach out to local businesses at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 10am to 4pm.

FEMA states that having the support of local businesses will improve response times during search and rescues, and will help rebuild quickly for those in need.

According to FEMA's website, the Industry Liaison Program establishes strategic

relationships with suppliers and stakeholders. This event serves as an information provider for suppliers seeking to do business with FEMA and it connects suppliers with program offices in support of FEMA's mission.

"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards," the agency website said.

Industry Day will feature speakers from FEMA, the CNMI Small Business Development Center, and the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center. Busi-

ness owners are advised to bring business cards and Capabilities Statements, as they will have the opportunity to have one-on-one meetings with FEMA representatives. On-site Data Universal Numbering System and Systems for Award Management registration assistance will also be provided.

There is no cost to attend, but online registration is required at <https://guamptac.eccenterdirect.com/events/490>.

For more information contact CNMI SBDC director Nicole Babuata at nbabuata@pacificsbdc.com, FEMA contracting officer Demetria Carter at demetria.carter@fema.dhs.gov, or the FEMA Industry Liaison Program at fema-industry@fema.dhs.gov.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-036

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-036, Security Guard Services"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on October 25, 2019**. Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 11, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior - christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-19-037

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) requires the services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

The date of contract award will be no later than November 22, 2019. Auditors are responsible to review the 2019, 2020 & 2021 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-19-037, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 15, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the submission, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address greg.cruz@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Torres to create new council for private sector

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres would soon be “announcing the formulation” of a new council, which he will call the “Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors,” and will consist of some members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Speaking last Wednesday as the main speaker of the Chamber’s monthly membership meeting at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort, Torres said the creation of the new council recognizes that the success of the private sector is proportional to the success of the CNMI.

“In the coming weeks, I will be announcing the formulation of the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors, who will be from your [the Chamber’s] ranks and who understand the

needs of our private sector,” he said in his speech.

“We now have seen what happens when we turn off the valve on this economy. We are still dealing with the repercussions of the loss of our economy those long weeks of November 2018 when our airport was closed. We must do a better job in ensuring your success so we all can succeed,” he added.

Torres reflected on the troubles that have hounded the CNMI’s private sector, all the way back to mid-2018, when the idea of terminating the CNMI’s foreign worker program happened.

Then last year, when the federal government was looking to end the entry of Chinese

nationals through the CNMI-only parole authority, Torres said his office also worked with the Chamber to avert los-

ing nearly half of tourist arrivals during the second 902 consultations in four years.

“...In a time of divisive immigration conversations throughout our nation, we

secured our tourism arrivals through discussion, negotiation, and facts,” he said.

Torres further noted other supposed disasters that through the same manner—

his office working with the Chamber—were averted, all up to the most recent extension of the CW-1 application period for fiscal year 2020. *(Erwin Encinares)*

MCS alumni group to host grill-off

Mount Carmel School’s AlumKnight Association invites its alumni, called AlumKnights, and their family and friends to participate in the first Class Grill-Off.

The purpose of the Class Grill-Off is to bring together AlumKnights and their families for a day of fun, community, and delicious competition.

The Class Grill-Off will be on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019, at

the Philcom Pavilion in Su-supe, across the CNMI Guma Hustitia. There is no fee to participate.

This year’s selected meat for the competition will be pork ribs. Interested competitors can register by completing the online registration form available at the Mount Carmel School website, www.mountcarmelsaipan.com. Printed registration forms are

available for pick up and can be submitted at the Business Office at the Mount Carmel School campus.

The deadline to register will be on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019. Late applications will be considered.

Rules for the grill-off are available on the MCS website. Participants of the Class Grill-Off will also receive the grill-off rules through email upon registration.

Although the grill-off centers

around the competition, the association encourages AlumKnights to gather their classes and hold individual picnics by the main event. Individual participants do not need their class to hold a picnic, individual Knights or AlumKnight families are encouraged to join.

For more information, email Boni Pangelinan at bherealways@gmail.com or Victoria Deleon Guerrero at v.dlguerrero95@gmail.com. *(PR)*

Survey seeks to understand quality of experiences at coastal recreation sites

HONOLULU, HI—Lynker Technologies, LLC will be doing a new survey of Saipan residents early next year.

The study will provide information about residents’ past and current use of eight sites around the island: Mañagaha Island; the Grotto; Obyan Beach; Lao Lao Bay; Ladder Beach; Hidden Beach; Micro Beach; and Pau Pau Beach.

The survey will be asking the public about their perceptions of crowding and environmental conditions at these sites, as well as previous and current expectations they may have had for their recreational experiences at these sites.

“We have several different ways in mind to obtain our survey sample, but we welcome all those who want to take the survey,” said Dr.

Christopher Hawkins, director of Lynker’s Sustainable Pacific Program. “We want to hear from as many Saipan residents as possible.”

This project is being funded by a grant to Lynker from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Coral Reef Conservation Program. The federal government is not involved in the development, implementation, or analysis of the survey.

Lynker’s creative and highly-flexible Sustainable Pacific Program was created to help non-profits and local governments in the Pacific Islands, West Coast, and Alaska involved in important ocean, coastal, fisheries, and other environmental work.

Visit www.Lynker.com to learn more about Lynker. *(PR)*

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Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 198Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Judge in Guyger case displayed the right balance of professionalism and mercy during and after the trial

When the stakes for a community were as high as they were in ex-cop Amber Guyger's murder trial for killing an innocent man, we're rightly focused on making sure that judges fairly and professionally follow the points of law.

But if we're fortunate, we also have judges who understand that there are human beings involved in the criminal justice system—victims and defendants—who deserve whatever grace and mercy we can muster.

In our view, State District Judge Tammy Kemp exemplified both of those important traits as she presided over the trial in which jurors convicted Guyger and then sentenced her to 10 years in prison for fatally shooting Botham Jean in his own home. She mistakenly thought his apartment was hers and thought he was an intruder.

But it was Kemp's actions in the emotional moments after the trial was over that make us most proud—and for which she has been unjustly vilified. She hugged Guyger, who was a uniform cop sworn to protect us now headed to a world behind bars. She spoke one-on-one with her—and she gave her a Bible.

For those gracious acts of humanity, she now faces an ethics complaint from the Wisconsin-based group, Freedom From Religion Foundation, accusing her of abusing her power and "proselytizing" from the bench.

We saw it as Kemp used her moral authority to bring compassion to a person whose mistake will cause her to relinquish years as punishment. The judge's words may turn out to be the nub that Guyger can build on to survive what promises to be a difficult prison term.

It was the same compassion shown by Jean's brother, Brandt, who hugged Guyger and told her he forgave her. We should point out that Kemp also hugged and consoled Jean's mother, Allison, after this trial.

Kemp and Brandt brought together the gravity of the moment at the end of this emotional trial and brought home the need for the city to accept this verdict and sentence and find a way to start healing.

We would have felt differently if Kemp's actions had occurred during the trial, but they happened afterward. There are no rules against that.

We've said all along that our hearts are with Jean's family. This 26-year-old by all accounts was a good man with a promising life ahead of him. No one deserves to go through the pain of losing a loved one that senseless way.

But we've also said there is room for sympathy for Guyger, who made a tragic mistake, but one in which she had to be held accountable. A jury made sure that she was.

And Kemp showed that in a civil society, justice also means realizing that these cases are not just about facts of law. We can't lose sight that there are real lives and real human beings involved here.

(c)2019 The Dallas Morning News



The chilling words of an alleged child killer

The words of 9-year-old Tyshawn Lee's accused killer were chilling.

"(There) ain't no age. Period. Age 8 to 80," he said in a recording played during his murder trial on Monday. "Eight days, eight seconds in this world, or 80 years, this is what I'm telling you."

Alleged gang member Dwright Doty was laying out the rules of the streets. He revealed with uncanny honesty that in the senseless, unregulated anarchy of street justice, rules are careless and uncompromising.

He made it clear that anyone who gets in the way of senseless killings between warring factions of young black men is fair game for execution. There's no age limit.

Tyshawn landed in the midst of a deadly war between his father's gang and Doty's gang, according to prosecutors. Walking to his grandmother's house, dribbling a basketball along the way, the child was lured into an alley and shot in the head at close range.

The unfortunate circumstances of Tyshawn's birth, being the son of a reputed gang member, made him a target for revenge. But if we are to believe what Doty said in that secretly recorded jailhouse tape, it could have been anyone.

Doty's words offer a stunning revelation about the mindset of young gunmen who terrorize neighborhoods every day and leave in their wake a pool of dead bodies that accumulate faster than the blood can be wiped from the pavement.

In a few short sentences, what he told us revealed more about the ruthless mentality behind the killings in Chicago than he likely intended to divulge. He left us breathless with anxiety and shattered with disappointment, knowing for sure now that these murderers have no boundaries.

We have always known that the young people who foolishly kill each other see no value in their own lives. Doty has given us a glimpse into just how worthless some gang members view the lives of others.

It doesn't matter if it's an innocent newborn or a grandmother full of wisdom. They are worthless in the eyes of young men who are convinced by all they have seen and done that life itself has no value. It is merely a steppingstone to an untimely death.

Until now, it was easy to consider that innocent bystanders were killed by amateurs who simply didn't know how to fire a gun straight. They held it cocked to the side or fired from a distance the way they'd seen it done in the movies, as if they were mimicking Dirty Harry. But that is not the case.

The bullet that grazed 5-month-old Lejend Baskerville last week was deliberate. The baby might not have been the target, but the gunman who fired a hail of bullets near the South Shore bus stop where she rested in her mother's arms knew they would land somewhere. It did not matter if it was in an infant's leg. It

By **DAHLEEN GLANTON**

Chicago Tribune

Dahleen Glanton is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

was inconsequential that fragments from the bullet would end up in her diaper.

The shooting that scarred this baby was willful and callous. It was the act of a heartless human who believed, like Doty, that "(there) ain't no age." Even if the carelessly fired bullet was meant for someone else, Lejend veered onto the path of a shooter hellbent on taking a life and became collateral damage in his mission.

The death of Tyshawn has opened a troubling yet important window into the evolution of gangs on Chicago's streets. Police have long known that much of the violence is a result of petty fights among splintered factions, many of which begin on social media, and are carried into the streets with deadly consequences.

What is most revealing about this case, however, is how far gang activity has strayed from what once was the norm. Young children, the elderly and even athletes used to be spared from its wrath. Not any more.

Chicago gangs have always been ruthless, but underneath their vicious, monstrous activities, occasionally lay a streak of humanity. Even Al Capone boasted that in spite of being "pegged as one of those bloodthirsty mobsters you read about in storybooks ... I'm human. I've got a heart in me."

While some would debate that claim, it is obvious that the rules of street violence in Chicago have changed drastically since the 1920s. Even in the 1960s and 1970s, when warring factions of the Gangster Disciples and the Vice Lords were leaving a trail of blood on the South and West sides, there were codes of behavior. Leaders levied harsh punishment for those who broke the rules.

But in 2019, murder has evolved. Death is bestowed by wayward, unreasonable groups of young men who aren't afraid to die and are determined to take along with them anyone they encounter on that path.

This callous way of thinking crystallizes the challenge we face in finding a cure for the violence. If shooters are as heartless as Doty makes them out to be, we are dealing with not just a societal issue but an evil force that has transformed human beings into men without souls.

How do you stop an army of soulless killers?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Smartphones are grenades in our kids' pockets—and we're not doing enough about it

Fireworks exploded first thing Tuesday morning and it was amazing: Twitter was crackling with Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg blasting Democratic presidential hopeful Elizabeth Warren, and Warren doubled down on a pledge to break up the social media behemoth to protect us all from the monopolistic company's darker side.

The smackdown began with leaked audio of a Zuckerberg meeting with Facebook employees in which the CEO said it would "suck" if Warren were elected. Zuck vowed to aim the full force of his company against her as president: "If someone's going to try to threaten something that existential, you go to the mat and you fight."

Warren slammed back: "What would really 'suck,'" she tweeted, "is if we don't fix a corrupt system that lets giant companies like Facebook engage in illegal anticompetitive practices, stomp on consumer privacy rights, and repeatedly fumble their responsibility to protect our democracy."

Meanwhile, all I could think about was the kids.

Our kids. Your kids. Everyone's kids. The high school kid who took his life last month in Tennessee due to cyberbullying.

Kids are walking around middle schools and high schools with smartphones and apps that have become a bully's best friend. Live grenades, you might even say. And all we parents are doing, it seems, is watching, helplessly, as Big Tech keeps getting bigger and bigger while our kids get sucked deeper and deeper into

the diabolical depths of their profit-making devices and apps.

Sure, parents try to monitor their kids' social media use. But this can't be all we do. Not with kids like Channing Smith becoming casualties.

Just hours before Zuck vs. Warren, the story of the Tennessee high schooler's death was making the rounds nationally. He took his own life after being humiliated by cyberbullies, his family says. Channing was distraught after a screenshot of him kissing another boy was disseminated, unbeknownst to him.

The youngster's story was on my mind from the night before when, over a cup of morning coffee, the Twitter face-off unfolded between Zuckerberg and Warren. It felt timely.

Companies like Facebook, which also owns Instagram, control so much of our online lives, our privacy, our personal time, and with very little accountability or mechanisms to flag or halt increasingly toxic behavior. (Just how big is Facebook, you ask? Its shares are valued at \$500 billion, with a 'b'.)

From the way it handles user data to its effectively allowing its platform to be used for meddling in U.S. elections, there are many major concerns about this company. Just as there are concerns about Google and so many other digital companies that have poked into our lives in ways large and small.

But as a parent, one concern rises above all others: What is all of this doing to our kids? And when, if ever, do we say the harm is becoming too great to ignore, whether it's digital

By MARIA PANARITIS

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Maria Panaritis is a national award-winning columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer.



addiction or bullying or being victimized in some other way by the tech universe?

The digital world, in just a matter of a few years, has ballooned into a virtually lawless place. And our children are in the line of fire, whether through the exponential spread of child pornography, as a New York Times investigation recently documented, or through soul-crushing cyberbullying, which also appears to be on the rise.

Pew Research Center recently found that a majority of U.S. teens have experienced at least one of the following: "Online cyberbullying, including name-calling, being subject to false rumors, receiving explicit images they didn't ask for, having explicit images of themselves shared without their consent, physical threats, or being constantly asked about their location and activities in a stalker-ish fashion by someone who is not their parents."

Even local police can see the uptick.

"The technology today and what's out there with all the different apps and how they can hide their identity and spoof different numbers, it's crazy," said Deputy Chief Ted Caiola, whose Upper Gwynedd Township police department is one of several feeding the North Penn School District in Montgomery County. We spoke Tuesday. He said kids come to realize, "Hey, look, I can do this and not get caught."

In Tredyffrin Township, the veteran cop in charge of police in that Chester County community agreed that officers are summoned to many more bullying calls in today's digital age than they ever did before the advent of social media. Michael Beaty would know; he's been a suburban law enforcement officer for 32 years.

"We've had to adapt with the growth of technology and find a way for us to continue doing our job," said Beaty, who became police superintendent in Tredyffrin two years ago.

As tech companies worry about their hegemony, parents should step up our own worrying game. Pew found that less bullying happens if kids spend less time online. That's a good start.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

First step toward sanity

Someone should tell our beleaguered president that leadership entails keeping people united during hard times (like the ones he's created) where opposing sides can sit down and work things out. His idea of leadership is to pit voters, constituents, families, neighbors against each other because it's "his way or no way" pronouncements, which are quite similar to how a dictator becomes a so-called leader. Like Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo, Trump is destined to meet a similar fate if his party doesn't demand he curb his vile behavior. That's what this nation is all about. JFK said it best: "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." Trump's idea is, "What can you do for me, or else!" Such divisive, mean-spirited braying by our president, "If I am impeached, there will be a Civil War" is not the way to go. We don't need a dictator to lead by derisive, divisive, scandal-ridden agendas. Impeachment is the first step to get us back to some sense of sanity.

Herb Stark
Moorestville, NC

What impeachment? Trump reiterates call for foreign governments to investigate his foes

You've got to hand it to President Donald Trump—when he says he doesn't see anything wrong with asking a foreign leader to go after his political rivals, he really means it.

Preparing to fly to Florida to give a speech contrasting his work on health care for seniors to the Medicare for all proposals advanced by some Democratic presidential candidates, Trump told reporters that Ukraine should investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter. In fact, Trump said, China should too.

In a July 25 call, Trump asked new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to work with the U.S. attorney general and Trump's personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, to investigate the Bidens' activities in the Ukraine in the mid-2010s. While Biden was the Obama administration's point man in Ukraine, his son was on the board of a major Ukrainian energy company that came under scrutiny for alleged corruption.

That call is now the focus of an impeachment inquiry launched by House Democrats, who are looking into whether Trump tried to leverage U.S. military aid to Ukraine to pressure the Zelenskyy government into digging up dirt on the Bidens. According to notes released by the White House, Trump also asked Zelenskyy for help in pursuing a far-fetched conspiracy theory that Ukrainians had fooled U.S. investigators into believing Russians were the ones who'd hacked the Democratic National Committee computers in 2016.

Trump has defended the conversation with Zelenskyy as "perfect" and insisted there was no quid pro quo, ignoring the obvious problem of a U.S. president asking a foreign government to help his re-election campaign. Trump reiterated that point Thursday morning, then held forth at length about why Ukraine should investigate the Bidens.

"I would think if they were honest about it, they'd start a major investigation into the Bidens," Trump said, according to a reporter's transcript released by the White House. "So I would say that President Zelenskyy, if it were me, I would recommend that they start an investigation into the Bidens because nobody has any doubt that they weren't crooked. That was a crooked deal, a hundred percent."

Actually, Yuri Lutsenko, Ukraine's former top prosecutor, told the L.A. Times that he'd found no evidence that either Biden

By JON HEALEY

Los Angeles Times



had violated Ukrainian law, although he believed Hunter Biden may have had a conflict of interests. Lutsenko replaced Viktor Shokin, who was fired by the Ukrainian parliament at the urging of Joe Biden and numerous European leaders—not because Shokin was threatening the energy company that hired Hunter Biden (he wasn't), but because they believed Shokin had not been aggressive enough in prosecuting corruption cases.

That's not the story Trump has been advancing. On Thursday, Trump said of Hunter Biden: "He had no knowledge of energy, didn't know the first thing about it, all of a sudden he's getting \$50,000 a month plus a lot of other things." And Joe Biden's offense? "Nobody has any doubt and they got rid of a prosecutor who was a very tough prosecutor. They got rid of him."

When a reporter asked Trump whether he'd urged President Xi Jinping of China to investigate the Bidens, Trump replied, "I haven't, but it's certainly something we can start thinking about because I'm sure that President Xi does not like being under that kind of scrutiny where billions of dollars is taken out of his country by a guy that just got kicked out of the Navy. He got kicked out of the Navy, all of a sudden he's getting billions of dollars. You know what they call that? They call that a payoff."

Hunter Biden was discharged from the Navy Reserve in 2014 for testing positive for drugs.

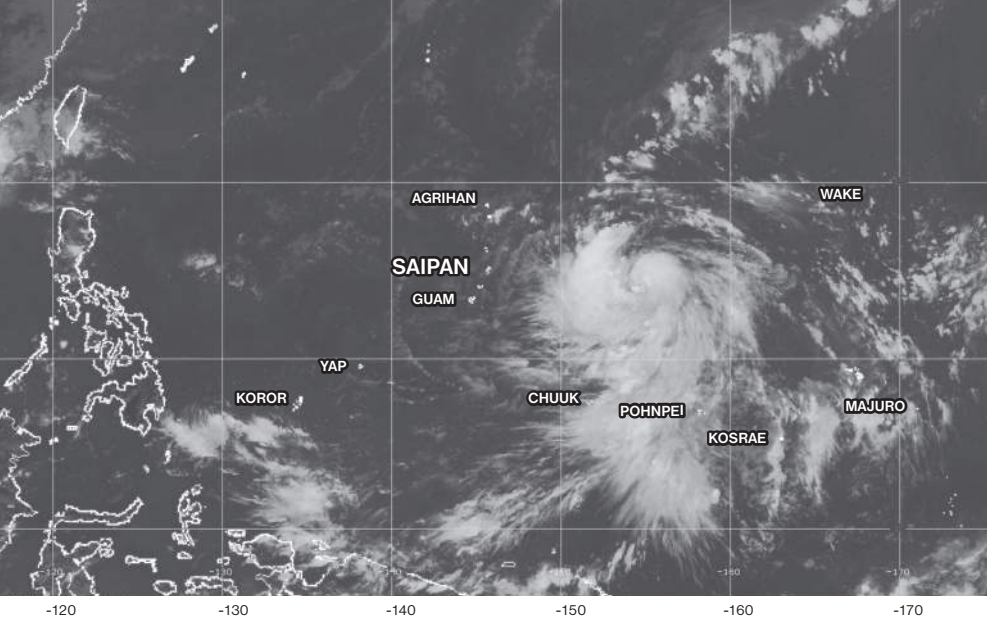
So in summary, Trump on Thursday explicitly asked two countries—one that's heavily dependent on U.S. military aid to keep Russia at bay, the other that's locked in negotiations with the United States to end a bitter trade war—to investigate a leading Democratic challenger for the presidency in 2020 and his son.

The president has famously said that he's not sorry about anything. He means that too.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. North winds 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 35 mph in the afternoon.		Damaging winds. Southwest winds 45 to 55 mph. Mostly cloudy with numerous heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. Locally heavy rainfall possible.		Breezy. Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
88°	78°	89°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	87°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:30 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light northeast winds will be expected today. Tropical Storm Hagibis is expected to pass north of Saipan Monday night and Tuesday. Subsidence ahead of Hagibis will keep showers to a minimum today. As the Tropical Storm approaches winds and shower activity will increase. Conditions will start to improve by Tuesday night and Wednesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	85° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	89° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	89° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 54°	
Beijing	Sunny	72° / 43°	
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 79°	
Honolulu	Windy	86° / 75°	
London	Showers	59° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 65°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 46°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
New York	Showers	73° / 58°	
Osaka	Showers	79° / 64°	
Paris	Showers	63° / 52°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	73° / 59°	
Rome	Sunny	73° / 57°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	86° / 60°	
San Francisco	Sunny	76° / 55°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	70° / 48°	
Tokyo	Showers	75° / 66°	
Washington, DC	Showers	73° / 57°	

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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:13 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.40	
8:53 AM	LOW TIDE	0.16	
4:35 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.68	
10:32 PM	LOW TIDE	1.08	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	5:59 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:32 AM	1:50 PM
Tuesday	-	1:24 AM	2:35 PM
Wednesday	-	2:14 AM	3:18PM
Thursday	-	3:03 AM	3:57 PM
Friday	-	3:51 AM	4:35 PM

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 7, 2019							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily		
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily		
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily		
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily		
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily		
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily		
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily		
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily		
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily		
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily		
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily		
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily		
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily		
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily		
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily		

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Torres: OPA is underfunded

All government offices are required by law to chip in a percentage of their annual budget for the Office of the Public Auditor, but it has since been learned that many government agencies are delinquent in their payments to OPA.

This was learned after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres vetoed a section of the newly enacted budget bill, Section 603 of Rep. Ivan A. Blanco's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-64

HD2, SD1, that sought to re-absorb unused balances from the OPA to the general fund.

The balances collected from this amount would then be allocated to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s utility arrears and operations and Medical Referral costs. The section further provided exemptions to paying the OPA fee for the Northern Marianas College, the Northern Marianas Trades

Institute, and CHCC.

However, in his veto message to the Legislature last Sept. 26, 2019, Torres noted that OPA is already underfunded. He said that unspecified government agencies have not been remitting 1% of their budget as OPA fee.

"The collection of the 1% OPA fee should be equitable across all government agencies, its instrumentalities, and

government corporations to enable the [OPA] to perform its mandates. It is unequitable and unfair to consider these exemptions [in Section 603] when it is the responsibility of the government as a whole to [bear] all expenses associated with the mandates of the [OPA]," he noted.

"Instead, an emphasis toward the enforcement of government corporations to

pay the 1% should have been stipulated for the government to realize any unencumbered fund balances," he added.

According to Article III, Section 12 of the CNMI Constitution, the OPA is entitled to a budget of at least \$500,000. However, the non-collection of the 1% OPA fee, Torres noted, creates a funding gap for OPA, resulting in it being underfunded.

Torres did not specifically

note whether the OPA was receiving at least \$500,000 annually for its budget.

In a previous session, the House rejected Senate changes to Rep. Roman Benavente's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-40, a legislation that would have exempted NMC and NMTI from paying annual OPA fees.

Conferees, according to House Speaker Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao (R-Saipan), were assigned for the House, but he could not confirm whether the Senate assigned conferees to discuss the bill.

Empowering children through storybooks

By **IVA MAURIN**
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REPORTER

What started out as a new mother's project has blossomed into a literacy program for CNMI children that has been adopted by the Lady Diann Torres Foundation and incorporated into its Language in Literacy Program.

"It really all started when I first had my child back in 2006," first lady Diann Torres said. "The governor and I are very strong at making sure that we pass on the [Chamorro] language to our child."

Torres, who was a teacher at that time, was free in the summer and considered coming up with her own Chamorro book since she was having a hard

time finding such books. The book, *AAB CH yan más*, or *ABC's and More*, a Chamorro picture-dictionary for children, was published in 2008.

She then had an epiphany of sorts: Why not continue to promote the Chamorro language by giving children the opportunity to become authors as well? And that's how the program was born. It not only pushes for local language literacy among the youth, but empowers the children to express themselves and be culture ambassadors.

Fast forward to 2019, five children have become full-fledged published authors through the foundation: Adora Jay San Nicolas, who wrote *Hafa Sinentete-mu*; Coloma

Castro, who wrote *I Lina' la Hu*; Cielo Cithalli Gutierrez Long, writer of *I Duendis*; Jude Litulumar, writer of *The Stick Dance: A Carolinian Tradition*; and Leilani Attao, who wrote *Maolik Kontra Baba*.

The books are available for sale for \$10 each at the LDTF office in Susupe.

Through the Language in Literacy Program, children are encouraged to write stories about history, myths, and legends, and are given the opportunity to get published and become full-fledged authors.

"The first book is an emoji book by Adora San Nicolas," said Torres. "[The kids] give us an idea of what they want to see in their book. So when they turn in their drawings, we



IVA MAURIN

First lady Diann Torres shows off the books authored by five young authors, *Hafa Sinentete-mu*, *I Lina' la Hu*, *I Duendis*, *The Stick Dance: A Carolinian Tradition*, and *Maolik Kontra Baba*, published through the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, as part of its Language in Literacy Program.

take it, and we find an illustrator to make it even better."

"We cannot do this without

our bilingual teachers within their schools to push," Torres added, giving credit to bilingual

teachers who have all been instrumental in the program. The LDTF promotes the program through an annual Language in Literacy Young Author's Writing Competition.

This opportunity to become an author applies to all children, and that they do not necessarily have to be in a bilingual class to join the competition.

LDTF has also opened the Language in Literacy program for an official sponsorship opportunity. There are two sponsorship levels: \$2,000 for main sponsor and \$1,000 for partner sponsor.

For information about the Language in Literacy program or to learn how to become an official sponsor of the published books under this program, email ladydiannortorres@gmail.com or call (670) 235-5383.



RED CROSS SUPPORTERS

Bridge Capital LLC signs up as a chair donor of the 30th Annual Club 200 of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter with a donation of \$5,000 presented to American Red Cross officials at the Bridge Capital office in Garapan, making it a chair donor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Saipan, Inc. signs up as chair donor of the 30th Annual Club 200 of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter with a donation of \$5,000. For more information about Club 200 Latin Nights-Hot and Spicy Salsa on the Sand or how to volunteer, call the Red Cross at 234-3459.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Hawaiian Rock has come out in support of the 30th Annual Club 200 of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter with a donation of \$5,000, making it a Friends of the Club 200 donor.



'Pwo' Ceremony



The "Pwo" initiation rites for Antonio "Tony" Urmeyang Pailug is held starting last Saturday at the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture Seafaring Traditions Canoe House in Susupe. The ceremony, which will conclude on Oct. 8, is the first one ever held in the CNMI.

IVA MAURIN

Business

Green Flash Dive doesn't compromise safety

By **BEA CABRERA**
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CORRESPONDENT

One of the biggest attractions of the CNMI to the world is its beautiful dive spots that boasts of healthy marine life, clear visibility, and several dive sites that serve as a time capsule where divers can get a glimpse history specifically ships and plane wrecks from World War II.

Green Flash Dive Inc. owners Joe William "Joey" and Rhea McDoulett know this and believe that diving is a big reason why tourists come to Saipan.

"Although not all the tourists that come here do scuba diving, I am sure one pull on tourists are the underwater pictures that they see of Saipan and the most spectacular ones comes from divers... Green Flash Dive Inc. provides and focuses on services that our local dive and scuba shops need to ensure the safety of the divers," said Joey who is also a scuba instructor and diving equipment technician.

"If we have a diving accident here, it will definitely impact the interest worldwide of coming to Saipan because it is one of the things that you weigh when choosing a dive destination and there are many dive destinations around the CNMI. Some of them are close and inexpensive like the Philippines, so we have to put this industry on a higher level of quality and safety," Joey added.

Green Flash Dive opened



BEA CABRERA
Green Flash Dive owners Joey and Rhea McDoulett.

opened their pool for children who want to learn how to swim since the Marpi swimming pool closed down.

"We have had some students work for us in cooperation with Sea & Sky Dive Center by giving them chance to advance inside the dive industry and hopefully get in to professional levels," Joey said.

We have an activity coming up called "Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest that is going to be held on Oct. 26 at Lau Lau Beach open to all certified divers and will soon open a local dive club called 'Green Flash Mob'... we want to build local interest and give back to the community because we feel that it's important for Saipan's environment that our local partners are invested completely as the people here is what keeps us in business and it is what keeps this island beautiful," Joey added.

Green Flash Dive Inc is located in Chinatown and is open from Monday to Sunday from 7am to 7pm. For more information, call (670) 287-3243 or look them up on Facebook and Instagram "Green Flash Dive Services" website: greenflashdive.com.

business in 2017 and Rhea saw the islands' need for the kind of services they offer. "I have been in the dive shop business for 19 years and I realized that there are more dive-guiding businesses than there were people or shops providing services to those companies. We decided it would be smart to provide services as opposed to focusing on guiding," she said.

"We offer 'hydrotastic test'

which is mandated by the U.S. Department of Transport and important for scuba diving because it is a way where air tanks can be tested for strength and refill. We also offer rental, air refill, and repair of tanks and equipment. Soon we will have exclusive dealership of the trusted brand ScubaPro on Saipan. We took trainings to acquire accreditations to offer these and it is a continuing

education," she added.

The McDouletts underwent training to acquire accreditation so they can offer the services they have and it is a continuing education. "There is a lot of equipment involved and currently, we have over 200 tanks, two compressors, a gen-

erator, and the hydro-testing machines. We keep continuing education maintain skills and get updated," Rhea said.

Aside from promoting safety in diving, Green Flash Dive also encourages young locals to know about diving through their on-the-job-trainings and

Iranian hackers said to target presidential campaign

WASHINGTON (AP)—Microsoft said Friday that hackers linked to the Iranian government targeted a U.S. presidential campaign, as well as government officials, media targets and prominent expatriate Iranians.

Overall, the hackers attempted to penetrate 241 accounts—four successfully—though none of those penetrated was associated with presidential campaigns or current or past U.S. officials, Microsoft said. A company spokeswoman declined to identify those targeted, citing customer privacy.

Reuters and The New York Times reported that the attack targeted President Donald Trump's reelection campaign, but this could not be independently confirmed. But a review of publicly available internet records by AP showed that the Trump campaign's official website is linked to Microsoft's email service.

Tim Murtaugh, spokesman for Trump's 2020 reelection campaign, said there was "no indication that any of our campaign infrastructure was targeted."

Microsoft's announcement

is the latest sign that foreign governments are looking for ways to potentially disrupt the 2020 presidential election. U.S. intelligence officials have sounded the alarm about the risks for months.

Russia's hacking of the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton campaign, as well as the subsequent leaks of emails during the 2016 election roiled the DNC, hurt the Clinton campaign and was a focal point in special counsel Robert Mueller's probe.

Foreign hackers have long targeted U.S. government and politicians, generally with little notice. But the disruption caused by Russia's attack has heightened awareness and prompted fears that other nations will try to follow Russia's example. Iran in particular could have a stake in the outcome of the U.S. election after Trump withdrew the United States from a nuclear agreement and stepped up sanctions against the country.

"The Russians came after us and our election system in 2016 and they paid virtually no price for that activity," said

Jamil N. Jaffer, director of the national security law and policy program at George Mason University, and former chief counsel of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "It's not surprising that China now more aggressively and maybe the Iranians are getting in that game. Why not?"

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said it was working with Microsoft to "assess and mitigate impacts." Chris Krebs, director of the department's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, said much of the activity is likely "run-of-the-mill" foreign intelligence service work.

But, "Microsoft's claims that a presidential campaign was targeted is yet more evidence that our adversaries are looking to undermine our democratic institutions," Krebs said.

In a blogpost released Friday, Microsoft's Tom Burt, corporate vice president for customer security and trust, said that owners of four accounts that were compromised by the hackers have been notified. The company would not identify those accounts.

US trade deficit widened in August to \$54.9B

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. trade deficit widened in August for the first time in three months as exports increased but imports increased more. The politically sensitive gap with China in the trade of goods narrowed.

The Commerce Department said Friday that the gap between what the United buys and what it sells abroad rose 1.6% to \$54.9 billion from \$54 billion in July. The deficit had fallen in June and July. But it is still up for the year despite President Donald Trump's attempts to push it down by imposing taxes on imports and waging a trade war with China.

Exports blipped up 0.2% in August to \$207.9 billion. Imports increased 0.5% to \$262.8 billion on a big increase in shipments of cell-phones, which are scheduled to be hit with new tariffs in December as part of the stand-off with China.

From January through August, the deficit rose 7% to

\$428.7 billion from \$400.4 billion a year earlier.

The goods deficit with China dropped 3.1% in August to \$31.8 billion and is down 11.4% so far this year.

The U.S. and China are locked in a dispute over American allegations that Beijing uses predatory tactics — including outright cybertheft — in a drive to supplant U.S. technological dominance. Trump has slapped tariffs on more than \$360 billion in Chinese imports and is planning to hit another \$160 billion in December. China has retaliated with its own tariffs on American products.

U.S. and Chinese negotiators are expected to meet for the 13th time next week to try to resolve the dispute, which has shaken global financial markets and cast gloom over the world economy.

In addition to sparring with China, Trump also has imposed import taxes on foreign steel and aluminum and

is threatening to tax imported autos too.

Trump views America's persistent trade deficits as a sign of economic weakness and the result of unfair trade agreements.

Mainstream economists say the trade gap is the product of economic forces that don't respond much to changes in trade policy: Americans consume more than they produce, and imports fill the gap. A persistently strong U.S. dollar — it's up about 1.7% this year against the currencies of U.S. trading partners — also puts American exporters at a price disadvantage in foreign markets.

In August, the United States recorded a \$74.4 billion deficit in the trade of goods such as cars and appliances. But it ran a \$19.5 billion surplus in the trade of services such as banking and education. The services surplus was the lowest since February 2016; services imports hit a record \$49.8 billion in August.

Nation

Impeachment probe reaches into White House with new subpoena

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the first time, the impeachment inquiry reached directly into the White House on Friday as Democrats subpoenaed officials about contacts with Ukraine and President Donald Trump signaled his administration would not cooperate.

The demand for documents capped a tumultuous week that widened the constitutional battle between the executive branch and Congress and sharpened the political standoff with more witnesses, testimony and documents to come.

Trump said he would formally object to Congress about the House impeachment inquiry, even as he acknowledged that Democrats “have the votes” to proceed. They’ll be

sorry in the end, he predicted.

“I really believe that they’re going to pay a tremendous price at the polls,” Trump said.

But Democrats accused Trump of speeding down “a path of defiance, obstruction and cover-up” and warned that defying the House subpoena would in itself be considered “evidence of obstruction” and a potentially an impeachable offense.

Lawmakers have made Trump’s request last summer that Ukraine investigate former Vice President Joe Biden the centerpiece of the probe. A whistleblower complaint said that Trump sought to use military assistance for Ukraine as leverage to push President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate the 2020 Democratic hopeful.

“We deeply regret that President Trump has put us — and the nation — in this position, but his actions have left us with no choice,” wrote the three Democratic House chairmen, Reps. Elijah Cummings, Adam Schiff and Eliot Engel, in issuing Friday’s subpoena after White House resistance to the panel’s request for witnesses and documents.

Fighting the inquiry, the White House was expected to send a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi arguing that Congress could not mount its impeachment investigation without first having a vote to authorize it. White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham derided the subpoena as coming from a Democratic

“kangaroo court.”

But Pelosi insisted the House is well within its rules to conduct oversight of the executive branch under the U.S. Constitution.

In the letter accompanying the subpoena, the three chairmen agreed, stating, “Speaker Pelosi has confirmed that an impeachment inquiry is underway, and it is not for the White House to say otherwise.”

Trump’s comments at the White House came shortly before Democrats sent a separate extensive request for documents to Vice President Mike Pence about his contacts with Ukraine.

Pence spokeswoman Katie Waldman dismissed the demand, saying that given its wide scope, “it does not ap-

pear to be a serious request.”

The House has also subpoenaed Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

When Pelosi recently announced that the House was initiating the inquiry, she didn’t seek the consent of the full chamber, as was done for impeachment investigations into former Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton. But it is proceeding at a rapidly escalating pace.

Late Thursday, House investigators released a cache of text messages that showed top U.S. diplomats encouraging Ukraine’s newly elected president to conduct an investigation linked to Biden’s family in return for granting a high-profile visit with Trump in Washington.

The release followed a 10-hour interview with one of the diplomats, Kurt Volker, who stepped down as special envoy to Ukraine after the impeachment inquiry had begun.

On Friday, investigators in Congress heard again from Michael Atkinson, the intelligence community inspector general who brought forward the whistleblower complaint of Trump’s call with the Ukraine president that sparked the impeachment inquiry.

Trump repeated on Friday that he had been pressing Ukraine to investigate corruption, not trying to undermine Biden, who could be his 2020 presidential election opponent. He made a related request of China, specifying Biden and his son, on Thursday.



President Donald Trump speaks at the Young Black Leadership Summit 2019 in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Friday, Oct. 4, 2019.

McConnell vows to stop impeachment in fundraising video

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell vows to stop any Democratic push for impeachment in a social media campaign ad that he’s using as a platform to raise campaign funds off the inquiry of President Donald Trump.

In the brief Facebook video, McConnell makes it clear that the Republican-controlled Senate with him in charge will be a firewall against efforts to remove Trump from office.

“All of you know your Constitution,” McConnell says in the video. “The way that impeachment stops is with a Senate majority with me as majority leader.”

The Senate leader, a steadfast Trump defender, avoided the impeachment issue during public appearances in his home state of Kentucky this past week.

But McConnell recently swatted down talk that the Senate could dodge considering articles of impeachment if the Democratic-led House approved charges against Trump.

“It’s a Senate rule related to impeachment, it would take 67 votes to change, so I would have no choice but to take it up,” McConnell said recently on CNBC. “How long you’re on it is a whole different matter.”

House Democrats began the impeachment inquiry af-

ter revelations that Trump asked the Ukrainian president to investigate his potential 2020 Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, and his family.

Foreign interference in elections has long been viewed as a threat to U.S. sovereignty and the integrity of democracy, and soliciting foreign help in an election is illegal.

In his video, McConnell appears to predict that the matter of impeachment will reach the Senate. The Kentucky Republican says that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is “in the clutches of a left-wing mob that finally convinced her to impeach the president.”

Looking to capitalize on the polarizing issue, McConnell

makes a fundraising plea at the end of the video, saying: “I need your help. Please contribute before the deadline.”

McConnell is running for reelection next year and regularly plays up his ties to Trump, who easily carried Kentucky in 2016 and remains popular in the state.

McConnell campaign manager Kevin Golden said the impeachment inquiry has fired up the senator’s supporters.

“Few issues energize conservative voters like liberal overreach and the Democrats’ latest outrageous attempt to impeach President Trump has activated our base to new heights,” Golden said in a statement Saturday night.

ACROSS THE NATION

Park-goers stuck on Disney World’s new aerial cable cars

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Firefighters have responded to help Walt Disney World park-goers who have been stuck aboard the Florida resort’s newly launched aerial cable car system. News outlets report that Disney Skyliner cable cars became stuck in the air Saturday night. A Disney spokeswoman tells the Orlando Sentinel that there have been no reported injuries. Passengers reported on social media that they had been stuck on the enclosed cable cars for more than an hour. It was not immediately clear what caused the incident. The Skyliner air gondolas opened to visitors last week. The cable cars whisk visitors from hotels to theme parks three stories above the ground while going 11 mph (18 kph). No more than 10 people are allowed in each cable car.

Mom: Arrested 13-year-old girl ‘no angel’ but was mistreated

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The mother of a 13-year-old black girl whose videotaped arrest in Minnesota has provoked an outcry on social media says her daughter is “no angel” but was treated unfairly by police. Davida Conover told The Associated Press on Saturday that her daughter has a mental illness. The mother would not specify the mental illness but contends that police were aware of it. The AP does not generally identify family members by name

when doing so could identify a juvenile charged with a crime, but Conover has spoken publicly and does not share her daughter’s last name. A witness recorded video of the Sept. 26 arrest at a UPS store in St. Paul, Minnesota, that shows three white officers struggling to arrest the girl as she screams and thrashes on the floor. Conover said watching the video made her feel “really disgusted.” She said police should have called in a mental health unit or a female officer to de-escalate the arrest.

New court terms for Florida man jailed for missing jury duty

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A Florida judge has reduced the terms of probation of a 21-year-old man who spent 10 days in jail after he overslept and missed jury duty. News outlets report that Circuit Civil Judge John Kastrenakes reduced Deandre Somerville’s probation on Friday from 12 months to three months, and community service from 150 to 30 hours. Kastrenakes also said he would drop the contempt of court conviction from his record if he met the conditions of his probation. For community service, Somerville must give weekly 10-minute talks to jurors about the importance of jury duty. Each appearance will count for three hours of service. Somerville says he overslept for jury service on Aug. 21 and didn’t call the bailiff before heading straight to his afternoon job in an afterschool program at the West Palm Beach city parks department.

Asia

HK's leader says mask ban necessary to quell violence

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's embattled leader insisted a new measure banning masks at rallies was not a move toward authoritarian rule or at the behest of the Chinese government, which signaled its approval shortly after she implemented the toughened response to quell four months of increasingly violent protests.

International observers worried, however, that Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam's use of the Emergency Ordinance—last invoked more than 50 years ago—could lead to harsher measures that would limit free expression in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The mask ban went into effect Saturday. Two activists filed legal challenges late Friday on grounds it would instill fear and curtail freedom of assembly, but a court denied their request for an injunction.

Lam announced the measure Friday afternoon as thousands of masked protesters crammed streets in the central business district and staged demonstrations in other areas of the city, shouting "Hong Kong people, resist!" They set fires and vandalized subway stations, prompting police to respond with tear gas.

An officer fired a single shot from his gun in self-



AP
A protester uses a cut paper bag as a mask in a march in Hong Kong, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019.

defense after he was attacked by protesters in the northern Yuen Long district, said police spokeswoman Yolanda Yu. She said a man was wounded, but that police didn't know exactly how he got shot. A police official, who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the news media, said the victim is 14. A Hospital Authority spokesman

said the teen was in serious but not critical condition.

The teen became the second victim of gunfire since pro-democracy protests began in June and just three days after an 18-year-old protester was shot by a riot police officer at close range.

Lam said the mask ban would be "an effective deterrent to radical behavior."

"We must save Hong Kong—the present Hong Kong and the future Hong Kong," she said. "We must stop the violence. ... We can't just leave the situation to get worse and worse."

Lam said she would seek the legislature's backing for the ban later. She insisted Hong Kong was not in a state of emergency but wouldn't rule out a further toughening

of measures if violence continued. She also bristled at a suggestion that the mask ban nudged the territory closer to authoritarian rule.

She said she was not acting under orders from Beijing, which she visited this week when Communist Party leaders celebrated 70 years in power on Tuesday. But Yang Guang, a Chinese spokesman for Hong Kong affairs,

expressed support late Friday, saying it was time for stern measures to end the conflict.

Face masks have become a hallmark of protesters in Hong Kong, even at peaceful marches, amid fears of retribution at work or of being denied access to schooling, public housing and other government-funded services. Some young protesters also wear full gas masks and goggles to protect against tear gas. Many are concerned their identities could be shared with the massive state-security apparatus that helps keep the Communist Party in power in mainland China, where high-tech surveillance including facial recognition technology is ubiquitous.

Lam's ban applies to all public gatherings, both unauthorized and those approved by police. It makes the wearing of any face coverings, including face paint, punishable by one year in jail. A six-month jail term could be imposed on people who refuse a police officer's order to remove a face covering for identification. Masks will be permitted when wearers can prove they need them for work, health or religious reasons.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Gunmen abduct British, wife from southern PH resort

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—At least four gunmen abducted an elderly British man and his Filipino wife on Friday from their southern Philippine beach resort within sight of several people, police and military officials said. Police Cpl. Jairus delos Reyes said the suspects, who were armed with pistols, took Allan Hyrons and his wife, Wilma, from a hut in their resort at nightfall and dragged them to a motorboat in Tukuran town in Zamboanga del Sur province. Several young men in a nearby bar witnessed the abduction. Police are searching for the unidentified gunmen and the couple, who own two schools in addition to the resort in the coastal town, he said. No group has claimed responsibility for the latest abduction in the south, where kidnappings for ransom by Muslim militants and other armed groups have long been a security concern and have discouraged tourism, trade and investment, especially in remote and poorly

guarded rural areas.

Australia mum on possible swap of detainees with Iran

PERTH, Australia (AP)—Australia's attorney general on Sunday refused to comment whether a prisoner swap was behind the release of two Australians from Iran in exchange for an Iranian student who was facing extradition to the United States. The couple, Jolie King and Mark Firkin, returned to Australia on Saturday after all charges against them were dropped. They spent almost three months in Tehran's notorious Evin prison after they were arrested for flying a drone near a military zone without a license. At the same time, Iran's state TV reported that an Iranian scientist, Reza Dehbashi, who was detained for 13 months in Australia for purchasing a defense system for his country from the United States, had returned home. Dehbashi had been a research student at the University of Queensland. Attorney General Christian Porter confirmed that Dehbashi would not be extradited to the United States but

refused to comment on an apparent swap.

6 elephants drown, 2 rescued in Thai national park

BANGKOK (AP)—A herd of wild elephants was swept away by raging waters in Thailand's national park, drowning six, while rangers helped steer two animals out of a deep ravine. Staff at Khao Yai National Park discovered the two struggling elephants and the carcasses after dawn Saturday near the Haew Narok waterfall, also known as the Ravine of Hell. The two elephants were trying to reach a dead calf, park officials said. Park rangers helped lead the two elephants from the ravine and said they will monitor their condition throughout the week. The waterfall was closed off to visitors while officials remove the carcasses. "The two elephants right now are taking a rest. They are exhausted from trying to cross the stream," said Chanaya Kanchanasaka, a veterinarian at the park, located 120 kilometers (80 miles) northeast of Bangkok.

North Korea decries breakdown of talks US says were 'good'

HELSINKI (AP)—North Korea's chief negotiator said that nuclear talks with the U.S. had broken down, but Washington maintained the two sides had "good discussions" in Sweden that it intends to build on in two weeks.

The North Korean negotiator, Kim Myong Gil, said the talks in Stockholm on Saturday had "not fulfilled our expectations and broke down. I am very displeased about it."

Speaking outside the North Korean Embassy, he said that negotiations broke down "entirely because the U.S. has not discarded its old stance and attitude" and came to a negotiating table with an "empty hand."

Saturday's talks were the first between the U.S. and North Korea since the February breakdown of the second summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un in Vietnam. The two leaders held a brief, impromptu meeting at the Korean border in late June and agreed to restart diplomacy.

North Korea has since resumed missile and other weapons tests, including the first test of an underwater-launched

missile in three years that fell inside Japan's exclusive economic zone Wednesday.

State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said Kim's comments did "not reflect the content or the spirit" of the "good discussions" that took place over 8 ½ hours, adding that the U.S. accepted an invitation from Sweden to return to Stockholm in two weeks to continue discussions. Kim, the North Korean negotiator, said North Korea proposed a suspension of talks until December.

The Vietnam summit fell apart because Trump rejected Kim Jong Un's calls for extensive sanctions relief in return for dismantling his main nuclear complex, a partial disarmament step. North Korea has since demanded the United States come up with mutually acceptable proposals to salvage the nuclear diplomacy by the end of this year.

During the Stockholm meeting, Kim Myong Gil said North Korea made it clear that the two countries can discuss next denuclearization steps by North Korea if the United States "sincerely responds"

to the previous North Korean measures including the suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests and closing its underground nuclear testing site. He called the North Korean stance "practical and reasonable."

Kim repeated North Korea's previous statement that the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula will only be possible when "all hurdles endangering our safety and obstructing our development are removed clearly and undoubtedly." He said whether North Korea will lift its self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests is completely up to the United States.

North Korea has said it was compelled to develop nuclear weapons to cope with a U.S. military threat. Before entering nuclear disarmament negotiations early last year, North Korea had argued it won't abandon its nuclear program unless the United States withdraw its 28,500 troops from South Korea, end its military drills with South Korea and take other steps that guarantee North Korea's security.

World

Thousands rally against Haitian president, clash with police

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Thousands of protesters marched through the Haitian capital to the U.N. headquarters Friday in one of the largest demonstrations in a weekslong push to oust embattled President Jovenel Moïse.

At least two people were shot as police in riot gear blocked the main entrance to the airport and fired tear gas at the crowd, which threw rocks and bottles.

Carlos Dorestant, a 22-year-old motorcycle driver, said he saw the man next to him shot, apparently by police, as protesters dismantled a barrier near the U.N. office.

"We are asking everyone in charge to tell Jovenel to resign," he said, his shirt stained with blood. "The people are suffering."

Several protesters held up signs asking the U.S. for help. "Trump give Haiti one chance" read one, while another quoted a tweet by presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. A third referred to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who discussed the crisis with Haitians in Miami on Thursday.

The unrest on Friday came after almost four weeks of protests in which 17 people have been reported killed, the economy has been largely paralyzed, 2 million children have been kept from going to school and badly needed aid has been suspended, especially to rural areas. The U.S., United Nations and other important international players have yet to drop their support for Moïse, making it appear unlikely that he will step down, despite protests that



have made gasoline, food and water scarce in some areas.

"We will continue until Jovenel leaves office," said Sen. Sorel Jacinthe, who was once the president's ally but joined the opposition earlier this year.

The opposition has rejected Moïse's call for dialogue and created a nine-person commission it says would oversee an orderly transition of power, with many demanding a more in-depth investigation into corruption allegations which involve the use of funds from a Venezuela-subsidized oil program. Critics say Moïse has not looked into the former top government officials accused, including ally and former Pres-

ident Michel Martelly.

To protest against the alleged corruption and a shortage of basic goods, Haitians have taken to the streets in force.

Opposition leader and attorney André Michel said the international community should recognize the protesters' demands and blamed Moïse for the country's economic and social problems.

"He has plunged the country into chaos," he said.

Moïse's ally, former Prime Minister Evans Paul, also met earlier this week with the Core Group, which includes officials from the United Nations, U.S., Canada and France to talk about the political situation.

He has said that he believes Moïse has two options: nominate an opposition-backed prime minister or shorten the length of his mandate.

Moïse, who owned a company named in the investigation, has denied all corruption allegations. He urges dialogue and says he will not resign.

Laurent Dubois, a Haiti expert and Duke University professor, said there is no clear answer on what might happen next as the turmoil continues.

"The thing that haunts all of this is ... is this going to lead to the emergence of more authoritarian rule?" he said.

Earlier Friday, police fired tear gas at thousands gathered under a bridge to urge the

A man carries a Haitian flag as people gather for a massive protest march calling for President Jovenel Moïse to resign, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday, Oct. 4, 2019.

international community to withdraw support for the president. Some demonstrators were carrying guns, machetes or knives.

A police commander could be heard ordering officers to take up their positions.

"It's become more than a protest!" he yelled. At various locations, water cannon trucks were on hand.

Getta Julien, 47, said she had enough of the protests and the president as she stabilized portions of rice, beans and vegetables she had packed into foam containers.

"He has to go," she said. "He's doing nothing for the country. Nothing at all."

Ukraine reviews cases on owner of firm that hired Biden son

ZHYTOMYR, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's top prosecutor said Friday his office is reviewing several cases related to the owner of a gas company where the son of former Vice President Joe Biden sat on the board, but he added that he wasn't aware of any evidence of wrongdoing by either Biden.

U.S. President Donald Trump had asked for an investigation of Biden, his Democratic rival, in a July 25 phone call with new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at a time when millions of dollars in U.S. military assistance to the country was being held up. That has prompted the U.S. Congress to begin an impeachment inquiry against Trump.

The move by Prosecutor General Ruslan Ryaboshapka was seen by political analysts in Kyiv not as a new investigation to dig up dirt on the Bidens but rather an attempt to stay in the good graces of the White House at a time when Ukraine needs Western help to deal with an uprising by pro-Russia separatists.

Ryaboshapka told reporters that his office was "auditing" relevant cases that were closed, dismissed or put on hold by his predecessors.

Several of the cases under audit are related to Mykola Zlochevsky, owner of the

gas company Burisma that hired Hunter Biden in 2014, the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Ukraine.

"We are now reviewing all the cases that were closed or split into several parts or were investigated before, in order to be able to rule to reverse those cases where illegal procedural steps were taken," Ryaboshapka said.

Asked if the prosecutors had evidence of any wrongdoing on Hunter Biden's part, he said: "I have no such information."

The Prosecutor General's Office said in a statement that among the cases being reviewed are 15 in which Zlochevsky is mentioned. None of the Zlochevsky-related cases has been revived yet, the office said.

They did not specify how many, if any, were related to Hunter Biden's work at Burisma.

Trump has said that the United States has an "absolute right" to ask foreign leaders to investigate corruption cases.

Asked about that by The Associated Press, Zelenskyy said during an appearance in the Ukrainian city of Zhytomyr that all cases under investigation are "transparent."

"Chief prosecutors could pull their efforts together, we have all cases open," Zelenskyy said.

Security forces kill more than 80 in 5 days of Iraq protests

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi protesters pressed on with angry anti-government rallies in the capital and across several provinces for a fifth day Saturday, setting government offices on fire and ignoring appeals for calm from political and religious leaders. Security agencies fatally shot 19 protesters and wounded more than three dozen in a sustained deadly response that has claimed more than 80 lives since the upheaval began.

The semiofficial Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights, affiliated with the parliament, put the death toll at 94. It said nearly 4,000 people have been wounded since Tuesday, when mostly young demonstrators spontaneously initiated the rallies to demand jobs, improvements to electricity, water and other services, and an end to corruption in the oil-rich nation.

The violent deadlock presented the conflict-scarred nation with its most serious challenge since the defeat of the Islamic State group two years ago and deepened the political crisis of a country still struggling with the legacy of multiple, unfinished wars since the U.S. invasion in 2003.

"It has been 16 years of corruption and injustice," said Abbas Najm, a 43-year-old unemployed engineer who was part of a rally Saturday in the square. "We are not afraid of bullets or the death of martyrs. We will keep going and we won't back down."

Amid the chaos, masked gunmen stormed the office of three TV news stations in Baghdad. Gunmen in black cars and wearing black clothes stormed the offices of Al-Arabiya, a Saudi-owned pan-Arab news channel on Abu Nawas

Street, beat up some of the employees and smashed equipment before they fled, said Majeed Hamid, the channel's Baghdad correspondent. Hamid said the station had been receiving threats for several days.

Gunmen also attacked the offices of Iraq's private Dajla and NRT news channels, according to employees at the stations. Both of those stations are privately owned.

Scrambling to contain the demonstrations, Iraqi leaders called an emergency session of parliament Saturday to discuss the protesters' demands. But they lacked a quorum due to a boycott called by influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, leader of parliament's largest bloc. On Friday, al-Sadr called on Prime Minister Abdul-Mahdi's government to resign and hold early elections, saying the shedding of blood of Iraqis

"cannot be ignored."

Abdul-Mahdi said in an address to the nation that the protesters' "legitimate demands" had been heard, but he defended the deadly response of security forces as a "bitter medicine" that was necessary for the country to swallow.

In a desperate attempt to curb the growing rallies, authorities blocked the internet Wednesday and imposed a round-the-clock curfew on Thursday. The curfew, ignored by protesters, was lifted at 5 a.m. Saturday, allowing shops to open and traffic to flow in most of Baghdad before the new demonstrations began.

As in previous days, protesters waited to gather until the afternoon, when temperatures were cooler and ensured greater participation, and security forces responded by opening fire.

Health & Wellness

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New research from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia suggests that young female athletes who suffer concussions have longer recovery times than their male peers, but not because of differences in strength or hormones as some experts have speculated.

Young female athletes with concussions take longer to recover, study finds

By RITA GIORDANO
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Rather, it's because girls tend to take longer to seek or get specialty medical treatment for their injuries, according to the study published this month in the Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine.

The reason for that delay, said lead author and CHOP sports medicine specialist Christina Master, may be related to the differences in medical coverage during practice and games for girls' sports, which are often considered lower risk than boys' sports.

"It is possible that the lack of athletic training coverage at the time of injury may affect the time to concussion recognition during the first critical hours after injury," said Master, a senior fellow with CHOP's Center for Injury Research and Prevention.

"This period is a window of opportunity where specific clinical man-

agement, such as immediate removal from play, activity modification, and sub-symptom threshold exercise is correlated with more rapid recovery," she added.

Master and her fellow researchers analyzed records of 192 student-athletes between ages 7 and 18 who were diagnosed with a sports-related concussion and seen by a sports medicine specialist.

The median number of days for girls to be seen by a specialist was 15, while it was nine days for boys. Delays in getting specialized care after a concussion—especially more than seven days—have been linked to longer recovery times.

Previous research has found girls often have longer recovery times from concussions than boys. In this study, the girls took longer to recover



New research from CHOP suggests that girl athletes who suffer concussions have longer recovery times than boys, but not because differences in strength or hormones as some experts have speculated.

on average than the boys on five specific measures, the researchers found.

The female athletes returned to school later—four days vs. three days for boys. They returned to exercise on average in 13 days compared with the boys' seven days. The girls' neurocognitive recovery took 68 days as opposed to 40 days for the boys. The girls' vision and balance recovery took on average 77 days rather than 34 days, and they returned to full participation in their sports much later. On average, the girls got back to play in 119 days rather than the boys' 45 days.

However, when the researchers looked only at the boys and girls who got specialty care within seven days of their injury, those differences in recovery times disappeared.

"There is speculation in the scientific community that the reasons ado-

lescent female athletes might suffer more symptoms and prolonged recoveries than their male counterparts include weaker neck musculature and hormonal differences," Master said. "We now see that delayed presentation to specialty care for concussion is associated with prolonged recovery, and that is something we can potentially address."

One care factor that can be improved upon is recognizing more quickly that an athlete may have a concussion.

The study notes that in sports where girls often have the highest rates of concussion—soccer, basketball, and cheerleading—there is generally less sideline medical coverage for games and inconsistent coverage for practices. In contrast, the researchers wrote, "many high school

leagues require athletic training coverage at all football and ice hockey practices and games."

In addition, the study noted that National Athletic Trainers' Association guidelines classify some of the most common girls' sports as moderate risk for concussions as opposed to sports like football and men's basketball that are deemed higher risk and have more stringent concussion recommendations, such as having a certified athletic trainer present at events.

High school teams are not under the same federal equal treatment requirement as colleges. Having the same level of medical coverage for girls' and boys' sports would cost schools more money, but it could have a significant impact on players' health, Master said.



How a plant-based diet can ease rheumatoid arthritis

By NANCY CLANTON
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Switching to a plant-based diet can alleviate the pain caused by rheumatoid arthritis, a new study shows.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a type of inflammatory polyarthritis, characterized by inflammation in more than four joints.

Rheumatoid arthritis occurs when your immune system attacks the synovium—the lining of the membranes that surround your joints, the Mayo Clinic states on its website. The resulting inflammation thickens the synovium, which can eventually destroy the cartilage and bone within the joint.

Although RA can occur at any age, it usually begins in middle age. It also affects woman more often than men.

A study published in Frontiers in

Nutrition suggests eliminating red meat from their diet can help ease RA pain.

Researchers with the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine and George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences reviewed "clinical trials and observational studies and found strong and consistent evidence that a plant-based dietary pattern can reduce inflammation and improve symptoms associated with RA."

"A plant-based diet comprised of fruits, vegetables, grains, and legumes may be tremendously helpful for those with rheumatoid arthritis," study co-author Hana Kahleova, director of clinical research for the Physicians Committee, said in a press release. "This study offers hope that with a simple menu change, joint pain, swelling, and other pain-

ful symptoms may improve or even disappear."

The researchers' review of a several studies found that plant-based diets reduce inflammation. One of these studies found that "diets high in fat and processed meat are associated with inflammatory markers, including C-reactive protein (CRP). Plant-based diets and high-fiber diets have been associated with lower CRP levels."

A review of a clinical trial found that people with moderate to severe rheumatoid arthritis experienced significant improvements in morning stiffness, RA pain, joint tenderness, and joint swelling after just four weeks on a low-fat vegan diet.

"This study offers hope that with a simple menu change, joint pain, swelling, and other painful symptoms may improve or even disappear," Kahleova said.

A new study shows that a plant-based diet can ease the pain of rheumatoid arthritis.

Life & Style

James Franco's ex-students sue alleging sexual impropriety

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Two actresses sued James Franco and the acting and film school he founded Thursday, saying he intimidated his students into gratuitous and exploitative sexual situations far beyond those acceptable on Hollywood film sets.

Sarah Tither-Kaplan and Toni Gaal, former students at the actor's now-closed Studio 4, said in the lawsuit filed in

Los Angeles Superior Court that Franco pushed his students into performing in increasingly explicit sex scenes on camera in an "orgy type setting."

Franco "sought to create a pipeline of young women who were subjected to his personal and professional sexual exploita-



Franco

tion in the name of education," the suit alleges.

The women say students were led to believe roles in Franco's films would be available to those who went along.

The situations described in the suit arose during a master class in sex scenes that

Franco taught at the school, which he opened in 2014 and closed in 2017.

The lawsuit, which also names Franco's production company Rabbit Bandini and his partners as defendants, includes allegations Tither-Kaplan made publicly last year after Franco won a Golden Globe Award for "The Disaster Artist."

Gaal is speaking out for the first time.

In an interview on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" last year, Franco called the sexual misconduct stories about him inaccurate, but said, "If I've done something wrong, I will fix it. I have to."

The 41-year-old actor's at-

torney Michael Plonsker said the claims in the lawsuit are "ill-informed" and have "already been debunked."

"James will not only fully defend himself, but will also seek damages from the plaintiffs and their attorneys for filing this scurrilous publicity seeking lawsuit," Plonsker said in a statement.

The lawsuit alleges that to take Franco's master class, students had to audition by simulating sex acts on film, which he watched to choose candidates.

It says the class began with "encouraging female student actors to appear topless, then perform in sex scenes, then orgies and gratuitous full

nudity," without the careful guidelines and closed sets that are the industry standard for shooting sex scenes.

The suit alleges that Gaal was kept out of the master class for questioning its exploitative nature.

Tither-Kaplan took the class and was subsequently cast in Rabbit Bandini films, "which she now recognizes was a direct result of her willingness to accept Franco's exploitative behavior without complaint."

The lawsuit seeks damages to be determined at trial, an apology from Franco and his partners, and the handover or destruction of video of the plaintiffs.

21 Savage: Kids in US illegally should become citizens

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper 21 Savage believes immigrants like him who lived in America illegally as children should automatically become U.S. citizens.

The Grammy-nominated artist who was held this year in federal immigration detention told The Associated Press Thursday night that such immigrants also shouldn't have to endure the lengthy process to obtain visas. He spoke in an interview before receiving an award from the National Immigration Law Center.

"When you're a child, you don't know what's going on," he said. "Now, you grow up and got to figure it out. Can't get a job. Can't get a license. I'm one of the lucky ones who became successful. It's a lot of people who can't."

NILC honored 21 Savage for being an advocate for immigrant justice. He was arrested in February in what U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said was a targeted operation over his expired visa.

He spent 10 days in a detention center in southern Georgia before being released.

The Atlanta-based rapper, whose given name is She'ya Bin Abraham-Joseph, is a British citizen who moved to the U.S. when he was 7. His visa expired in 2006, but his lawyers had said that wasn't his fault.

"When you ain't got no choice, you should be exempt," 21 Savage said. "It's not like I was 30, woke up and moved over here. I've been here since I was like 7 or 8, probably younger than

that. I didn't know anything about visas and all that. I just knew we were moving to a new place."

He said people in his situation should be made citizens.

"I feel like we should be exempt," he reiterated. "I feel like we should automatically become citizens."

Federal immigration officials have known 21 Savage's immigration status since at least 2017, when he applied for a new visa.

The 26-year-old rapper's immigration case still remains pending a hearing before a new judge, according to his lawyer.

21 Savage said the process to apply for a visa discourages a lot of other immigrants who don't have documents because it "hangs over your head forever."

Actor Robert De Niro in real-life drama with ex-worker

NEW YORK (AP)—Robert De Niro has found himself in a real-life court drama, trading dueling lawsuits with his former assistant after their decade-long working relationship went dreadfully sour.

He's accusing her of misappropriating money. She says he subjected her to sexist and harassing comments.

Chase Robinson sued the 76-year-old De Niro Thursday in Manhattan federal court, seeking \$12 million. The lawsuit came six weeks after De Niro's company, Canal Productions, sought \$6 million from Robinson in state court.

Robinson, who's 37, said she endured years of gender discrimination and harassment as De Niro made sexually charged comments, was verbally abusive and treated her as his "office wife" while she was an executive assistant and eventual Vice President of Production and Finance.

According to the lawsuit, he sometimes directed Robinson to scratch his back, button his shirts, fix his collars, tie his ties and wake him up when he was in bed after hiring her



This combination photo shows Robert De Niro at the Comedy Central roast of Alec Baldwin in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Sept. 7, 2019, left, and Chase Robinson, a former employee of Robert De Niro's company, Canal Productions in New York on Oct. 2, 2019. AP

in 2008 when she was 25 and aspiring to a career in the entertainment industry.

"De Niro would unleash tirades against Ms. Robinson — often while he was intoxicated — in which he denigrated, berated, bullied, and hurled expletives at her," the lawsuit said. "De Niro made vulgar, inappropriate, and gendered comments to Ms. Robinson. He would joke with Ms. Robinson about his Viagra prescription."

The lawsuit included a link

to a profanity-laced voicemail message De Niro once left Robinson in which he called her a "spoiled brat."

Canal's lawsuit alleged Robinson misappropriated hundreds of thousands of dollars, converted millions of the company's frequent flyer miles for her personal use, paid herself from Canal's petty cash account for personal and luxury items and "loafed during working hours, binge-watching astounding hours of TV shows on Netflix."

Prince Harry to sue 2 UK tabloids over alleged phone hacking

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry is suing The Sun and the Daily Mirror, two of Britain's most popular tabloid newspapers, over alleged phone hacking.

Buckingham Palace confirmed Saturday that claims regarding "illegal interception of voicemail messages" were filed on Harry's behalf. The palace declined to say more or provide details "given the particulars of the claims are not yet public."

News Group Newspapers, which owns The Sun and the now defunct News of the World, acknowledged the prince's High Court action while Reach, which owns the Mirror, said it was "aware that proceedings have been issued" but hasn't yet received notice of them.

The cases escalate Harry's

fight with the British tabloids. It comes days after his American wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, sued the Mail on Sunday for alleged copyright infringement, misuse of private information and violating the U.K.'s data protection law after the paper published a letter she wrote to her father.

Harry then lambasted British tabloids after Meghan filed her lawsuit on Tuesday, saying in a statement that his wife's lawsuit, which was months in the making, was a response to a "ruthless campaign" to smear her by creating "lie after lie at her expense" during her maternity leave.

The prince accused the British media of hounding Meghan the way it did his mother, Princess Diana, who died in a 1997 car crash while trying to elude paparazzi.

British tabloid newspapers have paid millions of dollars to settle claims that their employees had hacked the phone voicemails of celebrities, politicians and others in the public eye.

The prince's lawsuits likely date back years. The News of the World was shut down in 2011, at the height of the hacking scandal and when its former editors later went on trial, a court heard evidence that indicated Harry along with his old brother, Prince William, were targets of the paper's illicit interception of phone messages.

A transcript of one of the messages read at the trial came from a 2006 recording of William pretending to be Harry's girlfriend at the time, revealing the extent of media intrusion into their lives.

Ruby Rose ready to defend Gotham in The CW's 'Batwoman'

NEW YORK (AP)—Ruby Rose says she went public about sustaining serious injuries while performing stunts on her new CW series "Batwoman" because she hated that by keeping it quiet, she was lying.

The actress recently posted a video of herself undergoing surgery to her Instagram account with a caption explaining she suffered two herniated discs while performing stunt work. Her spinal cord was in jeopardy of being severed, and she was in so much pain that she says she couldn't feel her arms.

Rose said she realized it was better to be authentic about what happened, especially since she's a public figure.

"Something that we do as

a society and especially Hollywood, and that is we kind of promote this ideal life," she said, "Everything is effortless and it's not, you know what I mean? I feel like it's more important to spread the message that, actually, we're all just human beings and we're all just doing our best and not kind of make out that it is something that is so unattainable and so unrealistic."

Rose, who has experience with stunt work in films including "John Wick: Chapter 2" and "The Meg" now feels better and is back to doing stunts, but says the incident was a good reminder that she needed to slow down.

The 33-year-old's casting in "Batwoman" first made

headlines because it's the first openly gay superhero to headline a TV series.

Fans hoping for some romance will have to be patient. Rose, who is openly gay herself, says her character, Kate Kane, is not looking for a relationship right now.

"I don't think that's her priority right at this minute. She has just come into herself. She's just returned to Gotham. She has so much trauma going on. She's lost her mom, she's lost her sister, she's trying to discover what she wants to do in her life," Rose said.

"She was kicked out of the military so it's like she's starting from square one, and then when she discovers a purpose and that purpose is to become Batwoman."

Rose, however, would love to see it happen to give the character some levity.



Rose

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**Aerosmith named MusiCares' 2020 Person of the Year**

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—An organization that helps music professionals who need financial, personal or medical assistance will honor Aerosmith as its 2020 person of the year. MusiCares announced Friday it will recognize the four-time Grammy-winning band for its philanthropic efforts and for its impact on American music over five decades. MusiCares and Recording Academy President and CEO Deborah Dugan says Aerosmith “has walked the walk when it comes to raising funds to impact music people in recovery.” The group has programs that include addiction recovery, senior housing, leadership activities and more. The Recording Academy established it in 1989. Aerosmith will be honored Jan. 24, two nights before the 62nd Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. MusiCares will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of its gala. Last year’s recipient was Dolly Parton. Fleetwood Mac was the first group to win the award in 2018. Aerosmith is celebrating 50 years together, and is performing at a residency at the Park MGM in Las Vegas until next year.

Youngest of musical Hanson brothers injured in Tulsa crash

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Zac Hanson of the pop music band Hanson is recovering following a motorcycle crash in Oklahoma this week. The 33-year-old Hanson said in posts on Twitter, Facebook and the Tulsa-based band’s website that he is recovering after suffering a broken collarbone, three broken ribs, and a cracked scapula. Hanson said he was able

to walk away from the Tulsa crash thanks to “good quality protective gear.” Details of the crash were not revealed, but Hanson said he was preparing for a cross-country ride. Hanson said he will be replaced as drummer during an upcoming tour but will sing. Hanson is the youngest of three brothers who formed the band in the early 1990s. The band is best-known for the song “MMMBop.”

‘Wow child’ is special guest of orchestra that inspired him

BOSTON (AP)—A boy who charmed the world by exclaiming “Wow!” at the end of a classical music performance was a special guest of the orchestra that inspired his delight. The Boston Globe reports 9-year-old Ronan Mattin, of New Hampshire, and his grandparents attended a dress rehearsal at Boston’s Symphony Hall on Thursday as the Handel & Haydn Society prepared for its new season starting Friday. The venerable orchestra launched a search for the “Wow Child” after the May concert using audio of the moment captured by WCRB-FM. Handel & Haydn President David Snead has said it was one of the most wonderful moments he has ever had in a concert hall. Ronan’s grandmother says her grandson listens to classical music at home and will eventually begin playing instruments.

Title, book cover announced for ‘The Hunger Games’ prequel

NEW YORK (AP)—“The Hunger Games” prequel has a title and a book cover. Suzanne Collins’ “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” is due out May 19. Scholastic announced the title Friday along

with the cover art, which features the now famous mockingjay symbol, along with a snake. Collins announced earlier this year that she was revisiting the world of Panem with a new book set before the days of Katniss Everdeen. “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes” takes place 64 years earlier, during what Collins describes as the Reconstruction period after the war. It starts off on the morning of the 10th Hunger Games competition. “The Hunger Games” was the first of a trilogy of best-selling books. It led to four blockbuster movies starring Jennifer Lawrence.

Police: ‘Jersey Shore’ star arrested in LA after struggle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Jersey Shore” star Ronnie Ortiz-Magro was arrested early Friday on suspicion of kidnapping in Los Angeles and had to be shocked with a stun gun while being taken into custody, police said. Ortiz-Magro was taken into custody after police responded to a report of a physical altercation in the Hollywood Hills, police Officer Jeff Lee said. The 33-year-old Ortiz-Magro was uncooperative and officers used a stun gun to take him into custody, Lee said. He was released later in the day. A child at the residence was unharmed. The reality star has been seen in Los Angeles in recent days with his on-and-off girlfriend, Jennifer Harley. Police, however, did not identify who else was involved in the incident. Phone and email messages left for Ortiz-Magro’s manager were not immediately returned.

Long-lost sculpture has returned to Los Angeles library

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A

bronze sculpture that mysteriously disappeared from the Los Angeles Central Library 50 years ago has returned to its original home. One of three panels of the Well of Scribes was unveiled at the downtown library Friday, the Los Angeles Times reported. The sculpture depicting writers from different cultures vanished in 1969 when the library underwent a renovation. The story of its disappearance was revived in Susan Orlean’s 2018 novel “The Library Book,” which inspired Alta magazine’s managing editor to investigate its whereabouts. An article published in the magazine’s July edition caught the attention of an antiques dealer in Arizona who bought the panel from a woman for \$500 years earlier. Floyd Lillard in Bisbee, Arizona, recognized the sculpture in question, contacted the library and gave it back. City Librarian John Szabo says the discovery has given him hope that the other two panels might turn up one day. “Up until now, we thought (the sculpture) might have been destroyed or was in someone’s backyard,” he said. “We just didn’t know if it would ever be found.”

‘Joker’ sets October box-office record for Thursday showings

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Joker” is getting the first laugh on its debut weekend, scoring an October box-office record with \$13.3 million earned in Thursday night showings. Warner Bros. released the figures Friday morning. “Joker” unseated “Venom,” which also holds the record for best October opening with \$80.3 million, according to Comscore. The strong start comes after weeks of discussion about the R-rated

film and whether it will inspire some to commit violence. The film stars Joaquin Phoenix as the man who becomes Batman’s classic nemesis in the origin story film. Some victims of the Aurora, Colorado, theater massacre that occurred during a 2012 “Dark Knight Rises” showing have called on Warner Bros. to support gun control initiatives, which the studio says it already does. A theater in Huntington Beach, California, canceled two screenings Thursday night after receiving a threat, police said. Friday showings have resumed as scheduled. Both Phoenix and director Todd Phillips have defended the film, with the actor saying he trusts audiences to know the difference between right and wrong.

Comedian Andy Dick pleads not guilty to groping driver

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comedian Andy Dick has pleaded not guilty to groping a driver from a ride-hailing service. Dick entered the plea Friday in Los Angeles to one count of misdemeanor sexual battery. Prosecutors allege he groped a driver 18 months ago in West Hollywood. His representative declined comment. Dick, a 53-year-old native of Charleston, South Carolina, who starred in the 1990s sitcom “NewsRadio,” has been a popular and sometimes problematic guest on radio and TV shows, known for his erratic, over-the-top behavior. He has been arrested and sued over several other groping accusations through the years, including a 2010 incident involving a bouncer and patron at a West Virginia bar. Criminal charges were dismissed after Dick completed a pretrial diversion program.

Studio behind ‘Sesame Street’ is making an Elmo talk show

NEW YORK (AP) — Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel... and Elmo? Sesame Workshop is developing a talk show starring the squeaky-voiced puppet, called “The Not Too Late Show with Elmo,” where he will interview celebrity guests. Production begins next month, but it’s not clear when the program will air. It was announced Thursday as part of a deal between HBO Max and the children’s television producer. The centerpiece of the deal is five new seasons of “Sesame Street” that begin next year. The episodes will air first on the pay cable service and then be made available for free through PBS. Part of the deal is two new animated series. More “Sesame Street” products will be available on-demand, including classic episodes from the past 50 years.

‘Michael Jackson’s This Is It’ gets box set after 10 years

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A small-batch box set of film, music and memorabilia will be released to celebrate the 10th anniversary of “Michael Jackson’s This Is It,” the movie that captured Jackson’s final concert rehearsals before his death. Only 1,000 numbered copies will be made of the set that is available for presale at the Jackson online store and will be released on Dec. 11, Sony Music and the Jackson estate announced Friday. Each will include four LPs on translucent-blue vinyl, a 3-D Blu-Ray disc of the film, a 60-page coffee table book and a ticket for a July 24, 2009 concert at O2 Arena in London that was never held because Jackson died 18 days before the shows was scheduled to begin.

Husband checks out marriage after wife’s cancer diagnosis

DEAR ABBY: I need some advice for my dear friend. She needs to have chemotherapy and her husband says he won’t help her when she gets sicker from the meds. She is devastated and feels like he isn’t even her husband anymore. He told her he will move out and put her into a nursing home and that they can break up. Any advice?

DEVASTATED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR DEVASTATED: I am appalled. That someone could be so heartless and cruel is deplorable. Your friend’s husband appears to be one of those who becomes so freaked out by his spouse’s cancer diagnosis that he cuts and runs instead of standing by her when the going gets tough. (Yes, regrettably, there are some.)

Her top priority right now has to be getting through this challenge, regardless of what it involves. Are there supportive friends or family members who are willing to see her through the term of her treatment? If so, that’s what I recommend.

When she recovers—because with the advances that are being made in cancer treatment every day, it is entirely possible—I hope she realizes how lucky she is to be rid of this poor excuse for a man.

DEAR ABBY: I am divorced and live alone, which I en-

joy. I’m a homebody—I work and come home.

I dated a woman many years ago and we have reunited. I’m very much in love with her. She has family not far from here, and if I marry her, I know I’m going to be inundated with visits from them on a regular basis. Problem is, I love my privacy. I’m getting cold feet because of this. I have lived the way I do for a long time and I’m happy with it.

COLD FEET IN THE SOUTH

DEAR COLD FEET: Have you talked to this lady about your concerns? If you haven’t, it’s time, because it’s entirely possible that she loves her family as much as you love your privacy and won’t want to be isolated from them. In a situation like yours, if there is no compelling reason to tie the knot, perhaps you should agree to leave the arrangement the way it is.

DEAR ABBY: I live in a neighborhood with nosy neighbors who like to gossip. My wife and I are private people and keep our business to ourselves. There is one person, a man who recently moved here, whom I consider to be my only good friend.

The other day my friend showed me a text he had received from another one of my neighbors—a doctor—asking him if I had a certain medical condition. My friend responded by say-

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ing that the topic had not been discussed. I find the inquiry to be inappropriate. It’s really none of his business. I also believe my neighbor the doctor showed a lack of character and poor judgment. I value your input. Are my feelings out of line?

TICKED OFF IN TAMPA

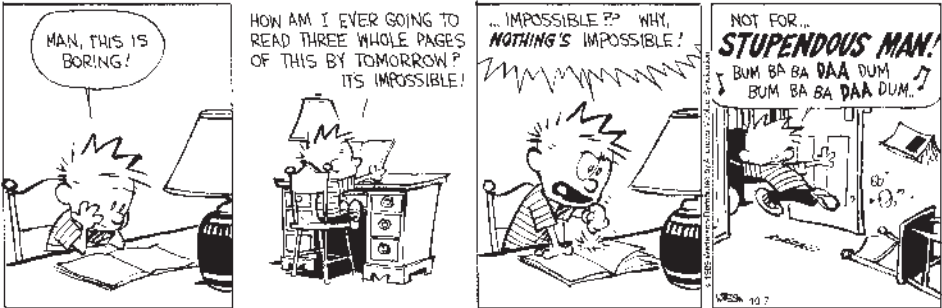
DEAR TICKED OFF: Your feelings are not out of line. If the doctor is truly concerned about your well-being and not neighborhood gossip, he should have asked you that question directly.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



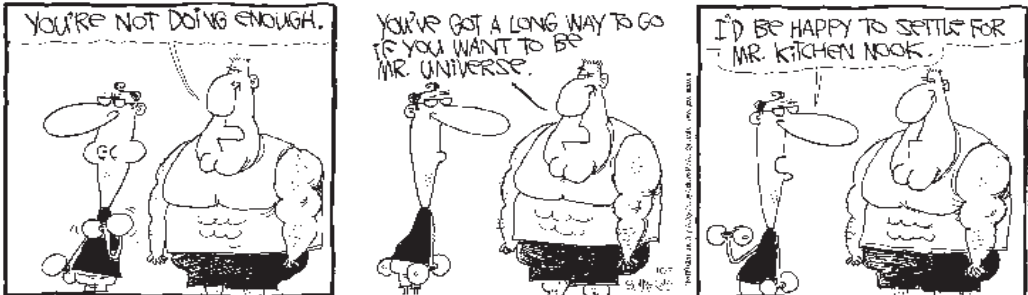
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Steerer's place
5 Atlantic fish
8 Read quickly
12 Idle or Clapton
13 Pub pint
14 Half a sextet
15 Saturn feature
16 Coast
18 Look high and low
20 Property barriers
21 Inter —
23 "A mouse!"
24 Marine plants
28 Gush
31 Sphere
32 Hunter in the sky
34 Mouths (Lat.)
35 "There!"
37 Furry Pacific denizen
39 AOL, for one

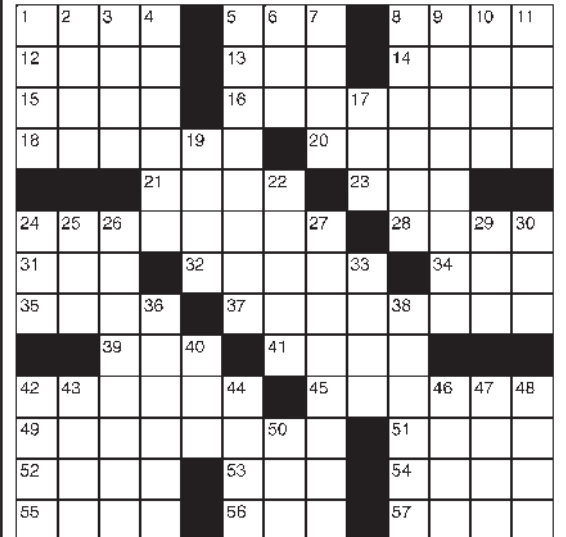
DOWN

41 Doing
42 Curved
45 Spooky gathering
49 "American Idol" host
51 London district
52 "Toodlee-oo!"
53 JFK info
54 1982 sci-fi film
55 "So be it"
56 Mal de —
57 Tools with teeth
1 Towel word

2 Pennsylvaniana port
3 Director Wertmuller
4 Country singer
5 Super-market workers
6 Flamenco cheer
7 Hearing-impaired
8 Gems
9 Eccentric
10 Suffix for million
11 Agrees silently
17 Spelldown
19 Nile queen, familiarly
22 Farewell
24 Drunkard
25 Mound stat
26 Relinquish the throne
27 Daytime drama celebrity
29 Before 1812
30 — of
33 Memo-randum
36 Refuse receptacle
38 Raises a glass to
40 For each
42 Hammett
43 500 sheets
44 Consider
46 "A Doll's House" heroine
47 Grub
48 Billions of years
50 Sault — Marie

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 10/07



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Shawn Ashmore, 40; Toni Braxton, 52; Simon Cowell, 60; Joy Behar, 77.

Happy Birthday: Be innovative, and explore new possibilities. The choices you make will set the stage for what's to come. Make a point to deal with unfinished business that is weighing on your mind and causing you emotional stress. Make changes at home that are conducive to how you see your life unfolding. If you want something, make it happen. Your numbers are 7, 13, 19, 26, 38, 40, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look before you leap. Not everyone will have your best interest in mind when making suggestions. Stick to the person who has always given you good advice for verification that you are doing what's best for you. Romance is featured. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your unpredictable nature will be based on emotional encounters with people who question your choices. Don't let ego get in the way. If someone makes a valid suggestion, take heed; it will save you from making a costly mistake. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a moment to gather your thoughts and put a plan in place. Once you have your mind set on something, it will be easy for you to lay the foundation for what you want to happen. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for a different way to broaden your perspective regarding a personal or professional matter. Diversity will make a difference if you are

willing to think outside the box and try something new. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't make a snap decision. Look at the possible outcome before you take action. Do the leg-work, and you'll discover something that will help you get what you want. Don't let emotions stand between you and making the right choice. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keeping up will be in your best interest. Listen, learn and be willing to adjust to what's changing around you. Make your efforts guide you toward what brings you the most joy. Strive for personal growth. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If something is not right, do whatever it takes to make an adjustment. Stand up and be willing to enter into a debate if it will help you move forward. Learn as you go, and you will come out ahead. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make changes for the right reason. Being forced to be responsible for your actions will come into play should you make a move based on emotions instead of common sense. Personal growth should be where you direct your energy. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be swift, smart and spontaneous. Stay ahead of the competition. Evaluate who is being honest, and you will be able to make a judgment call that turns your situation into a game-changer. Don't lose sight of your needs or your objective. Romance is heightened. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Show some compassion when dealing with people, and it will be a lot easier to persuade others to do and see things your way. Your vision and being able to articulate how it will benefit everyone is something you do masterfully. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Count your cash, rummage through your possessions, consider what you can part with and put it up for sale to continue to minimize your life. The relief you will feel after letting go of what is no longer needed will be energizing. ★★★

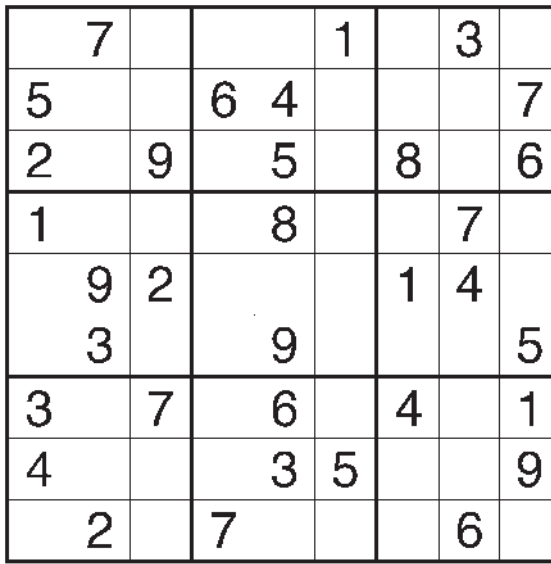
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look for an unusual solution if someone presents a problem. Showing your ability to work around obstacles will encourage others to rely on you more as well as give you greater freedom to do as you please. Avoid joint ventures. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, unpredictable and imaginative. You are outgoing and inquisitive.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

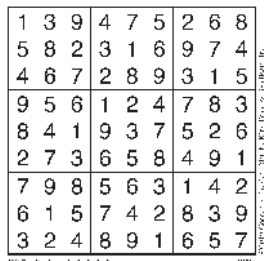
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★ 10/07
©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TIKTOR Solution: 6 letters



Adjust. Byte. Capture. China. Comedy. Comment. Content. Dance. Dialogue. Download. Duet. Edit. Feature. Filter. Friend. Image. Install. Interact. Internet. Jakarta. Knowledge. Launch. London. Market. Message. Mobile. Moments. Online. Perform. Platform. Popular. React. Screen. Seoul. Server. Share. Short. Software. Text. Tokyo. Trend. User. View. Virtual. Voice
Last Friday's Answer: Month St. Helens
To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 21, 2019 **TIME: 10:00 AM**

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Juan T. Lizama
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 501508, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-7220/483-2662

Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE
MATTER OF:

ALEXANDER DLG.
BORJA
Deceased

) CIVIL ACTION
NO. 19-0292-CV
) AMENDED NOTICE OF
HEARING AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on November 7, 2019 at 10 a.m. in the Superior Court in Susupe, Northern Mariana Islands, Alex Olympio Borja will petition the court for Letters of Administration for his appointment as Administrator of the Estate of Alexander DLG. Borja, deceased. The attorney of record is Juan T. Lizama, whose address is: P.O. Box 501508, Saipan, MP, 96950.

Any interested person may appear at this hearing.

All persons having claim against the estate, or against the decedent should file their claim with the Clerk of the Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands within 60 days after the first publication of this Notice of Hearing.

Dated this 30th day of September, 2019

/s/ Clerk of Superior Court

WHATZIT Solution: Makeup artist

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Interested applicants may inquire with the Guam County FSA Office at (671) 300-8551. Completed applications must be submitted by close of business October 18, 2019 to the Guam County FSA Office, 770 E. Sunset Blvd., Suite 265, Barrigada, Guam 96913. Fax: (855) 356-9491.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes
1. June 24, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
2. August 26, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
E. Correspondence

II. Management Reports
A. Executive Director's Report
B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
1. Statement of Net Position as of September 30, 2019
2. Statement of Cash Flow as of September 30, 2019
3. 2019 Budget vs. Current Financials

III. Committee Reports
A. Personnel Committee Report

IV. Old Business
A. Telesource Contract
B. CUC-CPA Omnibus Settlement Agreement
C. Board Travel and Per Diem
D. Net Metering Credit to Water Electric Charge
E. Organizational Chart

V. New Business
VI. Public Comments*
VII. Executive Session**
(Consultation with Legal Counsel on Personnel Matters, Contracts, and Board Communications)
VIII. Announcements
IX. Adjournment

* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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Yankees stagger Twins for 2-0 ALDS lead



NEW YORK
(AP)—The

103-win New York Yankees ran out identical, relentless lineups in consecutive games for the first time all year, and manager Aaron Boone believes he knows what's next for the A-team Bombers.

"Throttle down," he said.

Didi Gregorius hooked a slump-busting grand slam during a seven-run third inning and the Yankees pummeled the Minnesota Twins again, cruising to an 8-2 victory Saturday for a 2-0 lead in their AL Division Series.

Uber driver-turned-rookie big leaguer Randy Dobnak struggled in an unexpected start, and the Twins lost their record 15th consecutive postseason game, including 12 straight against the Yankees. The latter is the longest postseason skid for one club against another in major league history, topping Boston's dominance over the Angels from 1986-2008. Minnesota hasn't won a playoff game since Johan Santana bested the Yankees in their 2004 Division Series opener — exactly 15 years earlier.

"Our guys know that we can turn it around," Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said.

Coaches and players on both sides have downplayed that history, most of which predates current rosters. It's all too familiar for fans in Minnesota, where the teams will play Monday's Game 3 in the best-of-five series.

"We'll have all kinds of fire power ready to go Monday," Boone said.

Gregorius' shot blew Game 2 wide open while New York batted around. The switch-hitter staggered after connecting for the first time since Sept. 10, looping his bat from one hand to another and mashing on bubble gum while he watched the ball fly. Gregorius, set to become a free agent after the season, batted .194 during September and was 0 for 3 in Game 1.

"I expect this from Didi," Boone said. "Just when you think you've got him down, he's got a big swing in him."

Boone had predicted that if Gregorius could just find a hole, big hits might follow. Sure enough, Gregorius squibbed an infield single in his first at-bat before lifting his homer into the second deck in right field.

Gregorius said he was processing the at-bat during his unusual reaction to the slam. Relief pitcher Tyler Duffey struck out Gregorius on a high fastball Friday, a similar pitch to the one Gregorius crushed.

"I was ready for it this



AP
New York Yankees right fielder Aaron Judge makes a diving catch on a ball hit by Minnesota Twins' Jorge Polanco during the third inning of Game 2 of an American League Division Series baseball game, Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019, in New York.

ager AJ Hinch said. "He had complete command of the entire game."

Cole's performance came after fellow ace and Cy Young Award contender Justin Verlander pitched seven scoreless innings to lead the Astros to a 6-2 win in Friday's opener.

Throwback performances from another era.

"Whether it's about the new-age opener or pulling guys third time through, most of the people that support that haven't had Verlander or Cole on their team," Hinch said. "It's hard for me to relate to having to pull guys early or wanting to pull guys early when these guys are putting up these kinds of performances. ... I'm going to roll with these boys while we have them."

Cole (1-0), who led the majors with 326 strikeouts in the regular season, extended his big league record with his 10th straight game with at least 10 Ks. The Rays were unable to string anything together off of him on a night he induced 33 swings and misses — the most in a postseason game since MLB started tracking the stat in 2008 — and threw a career-high 118 pitches.

"I don't think anything he did was surprising," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "He's just that good."

"He was majestic," the Rays' Willy Adames said.

Kevin Kiemaier doubled with two outs in the eighth and Cole was lifted after putting on Adames with Tampa Bay's first walk. The right-hander received a standing ovation as he walked off the mound and waved to the crowd just before he reached the dugout. Roberto Osuna took over and struck out Yandy Díaz to end the inning before loading the bases with no outs in the ninth.

Austin Meadows and Tommy Pham hit consecutive singles, Ji-Man Choi walked and Avisail Garcia grounded into a forceout that scored Meadows. Osuna walked Brandon Lowe, reloading the bases, and Hinch brought in Will Harris.

Travis d'Arnaud worked the count full, then struck out on a high cutter. Kiemaier grounded to first baseman Yuli Gurriel, who flipped to Harris, who stepped on first for the save.

Tampa Bay is hitting .177 with two extra-base hits. Game 3 of the best-of-five series is Monday in Florida.

time," he said.

Finally featuring nearly all its stars after placing 30 players on the injured list during the regular season, New York has grinded away at Twins pitching. The Yankees worked eight walks for the second straight game, and Aaron Judge led the way with two hits and two free passes.

"They were really good, especially on breaking balls," Duffey said. "If you weren't close to the plate, it didn't even seem like they wanted to even think about swinging."

Yankees right-hander Masahiro Tanaka pitched one-run ball for five innings for the win, striking out seven and handing off to New York's fearsome bullpen after 83 pitches. Tanaka's career postseason ERA climbed to 1.54, still second lowest by a New York starter with a minimum of four starts behind Monte Pearson's 1.01.

Astros 3, Rays 1

In Houston, the Astros' pair of aces dealt them the pair of wins.

Gerrit Cole carried his splendid September into an outstanding October with a 15-strikeout performance and Alex Bregman handed fans chanting MVP the mighty swing they craved. The Astros survived a wild ninth inning to beat the Tampa Bay Rays 3-1 on Saturday night for a 2-0 lead in their AL Division Series.

Houston is one win from reaching the AL Championship Series for the third straight year.

"We've got a lot more work to take care of," Cole said.

"There's a few months this winter that maybe we can sit back and have a drink about it. Right now, it's on to the next one."

Cole, 5-0 with a 1.07 ERA in six starts last month, set an Astros postseason strikeouts record over 7 2/3 scoreless innings to win his franchise-record 17th straight decision. The strikeouts tied for third-most in a postseason game, behind only Bob Gibson's 17 in the 1968 World Series and Kevin Brown's 16 in a 1998 NL Division Series.

"He was incredible," man-

Cardinals to turn to Wainwright in Game 3 vs Braves

ST. LOUIS (AP)— When October baseball returns to St. Louis on Sunday, Adam Wainwright will get the ball for the Cardinals again. Just like he has for so many big games over the past 14 years.

It was almost a much different picture. If not for one December trade back in 2003, Wainwright might be pitching for Atlanta in Game 3 of the NL Division Series.

The 38-year-old Georgia native, who was selected by Atlanta in the first round of the 2000 amateur draft, will make his 13th postseason start when the Cardinals take on Mike Soroka and the Braves in the first postseason game in St. Louis in four years.

"Feeling that playoff buzz in the crowd when the games are actually going on, you can

never replace it or replicate it any other place in life that I've seen," he said. "It's just a feeling that is beyond compare. So I'm looking forward to it. I'm excited to be back in the playoffs."

The NL East and Central champions split the first two games of the best-of-five series in Atlanta. Paul Goldschmidt homered to help St. Louis rally for a 7-6 victory in the opener, and Mike Foltynewicz pitched seven sparkling innings in Atlanta's 3-0 win in Game 2.

Two days after Foltynewicz's dominant performance, Soroka takes the mound for the Braves. St. Louis, a regular October playground before its longest drought in two decades, might not seem like the best

spot for a playoff debut, but Soroka is no ordinary pitcher.

The 22-year-old right-hander went 7-1 with a 1.55 ERA in 16 road starts this year, compared with 6-3 and a 4.14 ERA at home. He allowed one earned run in 13 innings in two May starts against the Cardinals, including six effective innings in a no-decision at Busch Stadium.

"He's really good at staying pitch to pitch," Braves manager Brian Snitker said Saturday. "It's like he's winning the battle, the small battles within a game, pitch to pitch, hitter to hitter, inning to inning."

"I think he understands that when he gets in trouble that he has something—he's a pitch away from getting out of trouble."

Soroka said he isn't sure

why he has been so good on the road this year compared with at home, but growing up in Canada could be a factor.

"Every important game I would have pitched in would have been either not in Calgary, not even in Canada, usually in another country—Pan Ams in Mexico, games in Cuba, all that kind of stuff," he said.

"I think maybe I just got used to being in unfamiliar places and that's when I found I loved to play."

Soroka was 9 when Wainwright made his postseason debut in 2006, helping St. Louis win the World Series for the first time in 24 years. The 6-foot-7 right-hander has been versatile in the playoffs, going 4-4 with a 3.03 ERA and four saves in 24 appearances.

Davis dominant in Lakers' preseason debut



SAN FRANCISCO—Any time Anthony Davis touched the ball, he seemingly could do whatever he wanted.

The Los Angeles Lakers star grabbed rebounds over his opponents. He dunked on them almost any time he could. Even when defenders forced him to take a jump shot, Davis often made those, too.

It does not take someone of Davis' skill to understand why the Lakers became so relentless last season and during the summer to acquire the six-time NBA All-Star. In his first game wearing a Lakers uniform, he fully explained why. In the Lakers' 123-101 preseason win over the Golden State Warriors in the first game ever at Chase Center, Davis finished with 22 points while shooting 9-of-16 from the field and grabbing 10 rebounds.

"He's a monster," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said of Davis. "It's going to be very difficult to slow him down with what we have around him. I'm excited about what he's going to do. Lakers fans should be, too."

It often looked like the Lakers simply handed the ball to Davis and got out of his way. Davis flourished for much deeper reasons. Beyond his talent, Davis has taken various steps to accelerate his adjustment with the Lakers. That started with cementing chemistry immediately with star LeBron James.

"I don't think it's ever easy to build. But I think it's been very good because of the relationship we had before and we're good teammates," James said. "We're able to be straightforward with one another, not sugarcoat anything and not take anything personal. We're being able to take the criticism. He gets in my ear. I get in his ear. It's all about trying to make each other better and accountable for each other. That is ultimately better for our team."

This mindset began well before Davis stepped on the floor against the Warriors. Shortly after the Lakers acquired Davis from New Orleans for Brandon Ingram, Lonzo Ball, Josh Hart and the No. 4 pick before the draft, Davis and James spoke constantly about X's and O's. Once the Lakers finalized their roster, Davis and his teammates often communicated via group texts and phone calls. Davis spearheaded a mini-camp in Las Vegas a week before training camp started. Vogel then often paired James and Davis together in scrimmages.



So once the game started, Davis spoke to his teammates both on the bench and on the court about various adjustments all parties could make. Davis relied on the Lakers' various point-guard options to call plays, including James, Rajon Rondo, Alex Caruso and Avery Bradley. In related news, Davis finished with 17 points on 7-of-11 shooting and seven rebounds in the first quarter. That marked only three points shy of the Warriors, who struggled with 20 first-quarter points on a 9-of-27 clip.

"The more we can do that, the easier the game will be for us and our teammates," Davis said. "Any time we have an opportunity to learn, it's always good for us."

Davis learned fairly quickly. He finished with five first-quarter dunks that all had their own story. Davis stole a rebound from Warriors forward Alfonzo McKinnie and converted on a putback. Rondo threw two lobs to Davis. James one-timed a bounce pass to Davis for an open dunk. Davis made another putback off a Dwight Howard miss.

"They're great players. They make things look easy," Lakers guard Danny Green said of Davis and James. "It's a natural instinct to them and natural bond between them. Really good things open up for all parties. So it's easier for them to connect because of how good they are."

The necessary caveats: The Warriors are adjusting amid Kevin Durant's depart-

ture, Klay Thompson's knee injury and Andre Iguodala's absence. The Warriors are currently decimated at center with Willie Cauley-Stein sidelined through training camp (left foot) and Kevon Looney out day-to-day (right hamstring). Davis (18 minutes) simply played in a preseason game where both he and James (17) sat in the entire second half.

Pacers 130, Kings 106

Officially, it's an NBA first: Coaches successfully argued referees' calls Saturday.

Sacramento's Luke Walton became the first coach to win a challenge—a new option for coaches to use in the NBA this season—when he asked

for a review of an out-of-bounds call during the third quarter of the Kings' game against the Indiana Pacers in Mumbai, India.

Review showed that Walton was right and the Kings retained possession. About a minute later, Pacers coach Nate McMillan wanted a review of a goaltending call made against Indiana center Myles Turner—and he, too, was proved correct, resulting in a jump ball at mid-court instead of two points for the Kings.

So Mumbai becomes the answer to a trivia question—the site of the first successful NBA coaches' challenge. The Pacers and Kings wrapped up a two-games trip to India, the

NBA's first two games played in that country, with Indiana winning 130-106 to complete a sweep of the series.

"Thank you India for allowing us the opportunity to make history...thankful to be a part of this moment," Sacramento's Richaun Holmes tweeted postgame.

Coaches may challenge one call per game, provided what they're challenging meets certain criteria and if they have a timeout remaining. The timeout is charged if the challenge is unsuccessful, and the challenge isn't retained even if it results in a call being overturned.

Alize Johnson scored 17 points to lead eight Pacers in double figures, and Indiana

Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis dribbles during the first half of the team's preseason NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors in San Francisco, Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019.

scored 46 points in the second quarter alone on the way to the easy win.

Aaron Holiday scored 16 points and JaKarr Sampson had 15 for the Pacers. They outrebounded Sacramento 51-35 and had 35 assists on 49 field goals.

Buddy Hield scored 17 points and Marvin Bagley III added 15 for Sacramento.

Magic 125, Spurs 89

In San Antonio, Orlando outscored the Spurs 41-17 in the third quarter to turn a close game into a runaway.

Mo Bamba had 18 points for the Magic, while Aaron Gordon and Terrence Ross each had 14.

Dejounte Murray, playing in an NBA game for the first time in nearly a year after missing all of last season with a knee injury, had 11 points in 14 1/2 minutes for San Antonio. Bryn Forbes led the Spurs with 24 points, going 5 for 6 from 3-point range.

Jazz 133, Adelaide 36ers 81

In Salt Lake City, Tony Bradley had 18 points and 10 rebounds and Jeff Green scored 16 points to lead seven Utah players scoring in double figures.

Donovan Mitchell, Rudy Gobert and Mike Conley—who was acquired via trade from the Memphis Grizzlies in July—did not play (rest) for the Jazz.

Jerome Randall led Adelaide with 18 points and Eric Griffin added 12 points, six rebounds and four blocks.

Djokovic rolls into finals of Japan Open

TOKYO (AP)—Novak Djokovic has been in dominant form at the Japan Open. That bodes well for the top-ranked Serb's chances of winning the gold medal at next year's Olympics.

Playing on the same court that will host the tennis tournament at the Tokyo Olympics, Djokovic beat third-seeded David Goffin 6-3, 6-4 on Saturday to reach his fifth final this season, a showdown with Australian qualifier John Millman, who beat Reilly Opelka 6-3, 7-6 (4).

While some of the world's top players opted not to take part in the Rio Olympics, Djokovic said he's planning

to play in Tokyo even though the Games start just two weeks after Wimbledon.

"I've already talked to you about the Olympics for an entire week," Djokovic said.

"So that means I am committed, I am planning to be here and to play. So I'll try to stay healthy, fit and come here. When I'll come I still don't know depending on Wimbledon, and how well I do there."

If he can maintain the type of play that has taken him into the Japan Open final, Djokovic will be the gold medal favorite. He got off to a strong start in Saturday's semifinal

by breaking Goffin in the second game of the first set.

"I knew that coming into this match he was in good form," said Djokovic, who is attempting to win a title on his

tournament debut for the 10th time.

"He was hitting the ball well, feeling well, so I needed to start well which I did. I made a break early in the match and with a break advantage I managed to hold my serve and win the first set 6-3."

The top-seeded Djokovic has not dropped a set in his four singles matches at Ariake Colosseum. None of his eight sets have gone to a tie-break, and he

has been broken just twice in the tournament, losing an average of 3.5 games per set.

Djokovic broke Goffin in the first game of the second with a perfectly-placed volley at the net. Down 15-40 in the second game, he fought back to hold serve and never looked back.

"It was the same scenario in the second set," Djokovic said. "Started off with the break, saved some break points in a really close game—the second game of the second set—then after that I think we both served extremely well and precise."

Goffin was the only former champion in the draw.

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Younger QBs stepping into starting roles



Look out, Tom Brady and the rest of the old heads. The young guns are moving in.

Every NFL game in Week 4 featured at least one starting quarterback age 26 or younger. There has already been a total of 52 such games this season, the most through four weeks of a season in league history. The previous high was 48 in 1987.

That happened after 20 quarterbacks age 26 or younger started in Week 3, most ever in one week.

Brady (42), Philip Rivers (37), Aaron Rodgers (35), Matt Ryan (34), Joe Flacco (34), Matthew Stafford (31), Kirk Cousins (31), Andy Dalton (31) and Russell Wilson (30) are the remaining starters in their 30s. Chase Daniel (32) is filling in for the injured Mitchell Trubisky this week.

Drew Brees (40), Ben Roethlisberger (37) and Cam Newton (30) are injured. Eli Manning (38), Ryan Fitzpatrick (36) and Case Keenum (31) were benched.

The NFL is in good hands moving forward with Patrick Mahomes, Carson Wentz, Dak Prescott, Baker Mayfield and Jared Goff.

Here's a look inside more



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz is pressured by the defense of Green Bay Packers outside linebacker Preston Smith during the first half of an NFL football game Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019, in Green Bay, Wis.

Panthers. Denver picked on Herndon last week.

Ramsey said on a weekly podcast starring NFL players that his back has been "extremely tight."

"It's something I've had to deal with over the course of my NFL career," Ramsey told the Uninterrupted's "17 Weeks" podcast this week. "At times, I've played through extreme pain or not practiced for weeks and tried to go out there and play. It's something I've dealt with, so wasn't able to go out there and put the product on the field that would have been beneficial for me or my teammates."

The two-time Pro Bowl cornerback declined to talk to reporters in the locker room Thursday.

Ramsey requested a trade Sept. 15 following a heated argument with Marrone on the sideline in Houston and a much-less-public exchange with personnel chief Tom Coughlin after the game.

Team owned Shad Khan told The Associated Press earlier this week that has no plans to trade Ramsey.

In other news, the NFL appears to be strengthening its case against Vontaze Burfict.

The league has already suspended the Oakland Raiders linebacker for the rest of the season following a vicious helmet-to-helmet hit on Indianapolis Colts tight end Jack Doyle that led to his ejection last week. On Friday, the league informed Burfict of another hit on a defenseless receiver during Sunday's game, agent Lamont Smith said.

The play itself did not draw a flag and occurred early in the second quarter. Burfict drilled Colts running back Nyheim Hines in the head while quarterback Jacoby Brissett scrambled to the opposite side of the field.

Raiders coach Jon Gruden and quarterback Derek Carr have both expressed disappointment in the length of the suspension. If it's upheld, the ban will last 12 games, the longest in NFL history for committing on-field transgressions.

Before 2019—his first with Oakland—Burfict's long-standing history of erratic and dangerous play brought about two suspensions for illegal hits, totaling six games during the first seven years of his career, all spent with the Cincinnati Bengals.

entering Week 5:

Carolina's Kyle Allen joined Wentz as the only quarterbacks to go 3-0 with zero interceptions in their first three career starts.

Patriots defensive back Devin McCourty is the first player in franchise history and the first in the NFL since Minnesota's Brian Russell in 2003 to record an interception

in each of his team's first four games of a season. Russell's record streak was six.

Mahomes and Ryan have thrown for at least 300 yards in each of their four games. Only

Peyton Manning (five), Steve Young (six) and Kurt Warner (six) had longer streaks to start a season.

Baltimore's Lamar Jackson is tied for the league lead with 10 touchdown passes and also leads all quarterbacks with 238 yards rushing yards.

Arizona's Larry Fitzgerald moved ahead of Tony Gonzalez into second place on the all-time list with 1,326 career receptions. Only Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerry Rice has more with 1,549.

Panthers running back Christian McCaffrey joined Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Brown as the only players in league history with three games of at least 175 scrimmage yards and one TD in their team's first four games of a season.

Frank Gore became the fourth player in league history to rush for 15,000 yards, joining Pro Football Hall of Famers Emmitt Smith (18,355), Walter Payton (16,726) and Barry Sanders (15,269).

Meanwhile, the Jacksonville Jaguars have ruled out star cornerback Jalen Ramsey for Sunday's game at Carolina.

Ramsey sat out his seventh consecutive practice Friday and will miss his second game in a row because of an apparent back injury. He hadn't missed a game in his four-year NFL career until last week.

Coach Doug Marrone said Ramsey likely will see a back specialist in the coming days.

Second-year pro Tre Herndon will replace Ramsey in the starting lineup against the

Decision Day looms for MLS



LOS ANGELES—Major League Soccer is bracing for Sunday's annual Decision Day, the final day of the season when teams scramble—all at the same time—for playoff spots and position.

This season's regular-season finale also could be called Golden Boot Sunday, as Carlos Vela and Zlatan Ibrahimovic vie for the most goals.

Vela has tied the single-season MLS record for goals with 31, a mark set by Atlanta's Josef Martinez last year. But close behind him is Ibrahimovic, the enigmatic Swede who stars for the rival LA Galaxy, with 29 goals and a four-game scoring streak.

Ibrahimovic, who turned 38 this week, suggested that the only reason Vela has more goals is because he's played in more games.

"I have 29 goals in 28 games. If I would have the same amount (of) games like the other ones, it would be different," he said. "But now I'm chasing someone that has more games than me. But if we score we score, we'll have

to see what the end number will be. We'll see. If there still is a possibility, we'll try."

He'd rather have the victory, anyway.

"I prefer the collective win," he said. "When we win that game, that is more important. Then with the collective success, the individual success comes with it."

The Galaxy will play the Dynamo in Houston to try and secure home-field advantage in the opening round of the playoffs.

LAFC's game at home against the Colorado Rapids figures into more than just the Golden Boot race. The Supporters' Shield winners could set the single-season record for points (71), set by the Red Bulls last year. LAFC, which has already secured a bye for the first round, has 69 points going into the match.

Additionally, LAFC has scored 82 goals this season, three goals away from the MLS single-season record set by the Galaxy in 1998.

A win Sunday is also important to the Rapids, who are still fighting for their first playoff appearance since 2016, but they'll need help

from results in other matches to rise above the line. Colorado is playing under new coach Robin Fraser, who was hired in late August.

Four teams are vying for the final two playoff spots in the Western Conference when Decision Day's 12 matches kick off simultaneously on Sunday afternoon.

The Portland Timbers are currently in sixth in the standings with 46 points, followed by FC Dallas with 45, San Jose with 44 and Colorado with 42. In addition to the Rapids match in Los Angeles, Dallas hosts Sporting Kansas City, which has already been eliminated.

The Timbers and the Earthquakes go head-to-head in Portland, with a win assuring a berth.

"It's a must win. That's all it is," said Portland defender Zarek Valentin. "The focus starts now because we know that we control our own destiny in terms of winning and getting in and that's all you can ask for at the end of the year. Obviously, we wish we could be a little bit higher, but we believe in ourselves and luckily it's in our hands. We've just got to get out

there, get some points and get in the playoffs."

Just like the teams in the West are still jockeying to play at home in the opening round, a similar scramble is happening in the Eastern Conference. D.C. United, the New York Red Bulls and Toronto FC each have the opportunity to finish in fourth.

The final standings took on greater weight under the league's new playoff format. MLS shortened its season by a month this year, going to single-elimination playoffs and setting the MLS Cup final on Nov. 10 - its earliest finish since 2002. Because the league expanded to 24 teams, MLS also expanded the playoffs to include 14 teams, seven from each conference.

The all-knockout post-season replaces the two-leg format for the conference semifinals and finals that the league started using in 2003.

In making the change, MLS Commissioner Don Garber said the new format rewards top regular-season records because they'll get greater home-field advantage. The shorter season will also ensure down the road that MLS wraps up before the start of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, set to start on Nov. 21.

More than 600 join Hafa Adai 5K Run

Fourth-quarter surge lifts MJD past TanHoldings 2

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



MJD Construction went all out in the fourth quarter to rout TanHoldings 2/CTSI, 102-86, in the lone game played in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

MJD Construction and TanHoldings 2/CTSI ended the third period in a deadlock, 64-all, but the former stepped on the pedal in the final can to pull away and take a 16-point winning margin.

Mico Usi and Bernard Montano teamed up in the early part of the fourth quarter to give MJD cushion, while Melvin Sahagun delivered the killer blows. Sahagun, who was scoreless in the first three frames, made MJD's last 13 points, including three straight triples. Usi added 8 points, 6 of them came from downtown, while Montano had one trey and 9 points in the pivotal fourth frame. Freddie Pelisamen and J.R. Castillo contributed 4 points apiece to complete MJD's fourth-quarter domination.

Usi top-scored for the winning squad with his 24

points, while Pelisamen and Montano also finished in twin digits with 23 and 19, respectively.

Lawrence Deleon Guerrero had 31 to pace TanHoldings 2/CTSI, as his impressive 3-point shooting kept the team in the game in the first three quarters.

Deleon Guerrero made 6 points in the first frame, which ended with MJD ahead by only 4, 20-16. The former Marianas High School standout then exploded for 17 markers in the second period and wrapped up their first-half scoring by making three consecutive triples to keep TanHoldings 2/CTSI afloat, 43-46.

Deleon Guerrero continued to hit his target in the third period and also drew help from Ariel Jinang in that quarter to bring the match back to square one.

However, after keeping up with MJD in the first three cantos, TanHoldings 2/CTSI lost steam in the fourth with Deleon Guerrero held to 3 points.

MJD 102—Usi 24, Pelisamen 23, Montano 19, Sahagun 13, Del Castillo 9, Bisana 8, Verano 2.

TanHoldings2/CTSI 86—Deleon Guerrero 31, Jinang 15, Buenabajo 14, Tenepere 13, Rivera 11.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Runners head out to the course during last Saturday's The 6th Annual Hafa Adai 5K Fun Run.

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The 6th Annual Hafa Adai 5K Fun Run hosted by Pacific Islands Club-Saipan drew over 600 individuals last Saturday and raised funds for Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation.

According to Dennis Tababa, director of PIC Saipan's Sports, Entertainment, and Activity department, despite the postponement of the event back in August, this year's run was a successful one.

"With over 600 participants on this 6th installment of the HASK, PIC thanks the community for their continued support and dedication," Tababa said.

He added that this year's proceeds, which have yet to be finalized by the event's executive committee, will help Empty Vessel Ministry in their continued outreach programs around the island.

"I thank the sponsors once more for their continued support in making the 6th Annual HASK a successful one," Tababa said.

Sponsors of the event include Kensington Hotel



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Student volunteers pose for a photo while waiting for runners to pass by San Antonio.

Saipan, E-Land Group of Companies, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Gatorade, Monster, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Bridge Capital, Pepsi, Koanoa Resort Saipan, Pacific Trading Company, LTD., and Five Star Wholesale Foods.

According to Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation founding director, Rose Smith, every year PIC chooses a different organization to benefit from the HASK and they are honored, humbled, and ex-

cited to be the beneficiary this year.

"We are honored, humbled, and excited that PIC chose us this year. PIC has been a great supporter of Empty Vessel for many years. Whenever we need any help, PIC has been able to reach out to us," she said.

Through the help of the 5K fun run proceeds, Smith said the foundation will be able to continue helping typhoon victims and families that are

in need.

"For the families in need, we provide food, clothing, and basic items that a family will need—school supplies for children from families who really need help. There are single mothers out there with a lot of children and they cannot afford supplies so we are there to help out," she said.

Smith encourages families who are in need and are still struggling following the onslaught of Yutu back in 2018 to come to the foundation as their doors are always open and volunteers are ready and willing to help in any way they can.

Smith also rallies the community to continue supporting the HASK, as it's through events like these that the foundation is able to help people in need.

"We ask the community to continue to support this event annually because it's for a good cause and organizations depend on individuals to support us and businesses to come along side. So for PIC to continue to organize events like these, we need the support of the community," she said.

IT&E

From Page 28

early vacation in the 12-team field. Max's Restaurant and Gilas Batang were the other eliminated squads, while joining IT&E Light in the playoffs are Tsingtao Boys (9-2), Connie's BBQ (9-2), Mawati (7-3), Pardz Ballers (7-4), Saipan Adventure (7-4), RNV (6-3), and IT&E Dark (5-6).

Light & Salt hit multiple triples in the fourth quarter to play a spoiler role in Docomo's playoff bid. Light & Salt made four triples—three from Arnold Natividad and one from Rommel Usi. Natividad scored 5 of Light & Salt's last 9 points.

Natividad top-scored for Light & Salt with his 23 points, while Manibusan had a game-high 26 markers for Docomo, which played in last Saturday's crucial match without one of its main gunners—Shane Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero delivered 22 points in their upset win over RNV last Thursday.

After hanging on to a 18-17 lead in the first quarter, Doco-

mo Pacific gained more cushion against RNV in the next two periods for a double-digit lead, 53-40.

Docomo managed to take a baker's dozen lead in the third canto and kept its safe distance behind the hot shooting of Tony Diaz, who finished with a game-high 32 points.

Saturday's Game

Light & Salt 71—Natividad 23, Pineda 16, Embile 11, R. Usi 9, M. Usi 7, Laxamana 2, Claveria 2.

Docomo Pacific 66—Manibusan 26, Diaz 17, Sablan 6, Grow 6, Mendiola 4, Lukas 4, Kaipat 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-10, 30-27, 52-46, 71-66

Thursday's Game

Docomo Pacific 71—Diaz 32, Deleon Guerrero 22, Manibusan 8, Hayes 5, Mendiola 4.

RNV Construction 54—Rueda 20, Baul 10, Biscocho 9, Navali 7, Odicta 3, Villacrusis 3, Taraya 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-17, 36-29, 53-40, 71-54

OFF

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The competition for the elementary division (futsal) started last Tuesday and featured seven teams that were divided into two groups. Group A has Saipan Community School, Garapan Elementary School, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School. Mt. Carmel School leads Group B, joining Saipan International School, Koblerville Elementary School, and William S. Reyes Elementary School.

The GES Mallards and SCS Tsunamis squared off in the opening game at the TSL Sports Complex last Oct. 1,

while the MCS Knights dueling The SIS Geckos in the other match and the game ended in a draw, 6-6.

The elementary futsal, which is played every Tuesday at 4pm, will follow a round-robin format in the regular season and all teams will advance to the playoffs, which will be a single-elimination affair.

The top finisher in Group A will be pitted against the No. 4 team in Group B for the first round of the playoffs, while other pairings are Group A's No. 3 vs Group B's 2 and Group A's No. 2 vs Group B's No. 3. The No. 1 finisher in Group B will get a bye in the first round and will play the

winner in the Group 's No. 2 and Group B's No. 3 tiff.

The playoff round will not be played until next month, as the last preliminary matches in the elementary division are set for Oct. 22.

In the ISL middle school division, five teams are battling for this season's championship. The list includes Hopwood Middle School 1 and 2, SIS, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, and Mt. Carmel School.

The SIS Geckos had their debut match against Hopwood 2 last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, while the MCS Knights were slated to duel FMS in the other game in the open-

ing week.

This Friday, Hopwood 1 will play its first game of the season against FMS, while SIS will collide against Mt. Carmel in the other Week 2 tiff.

The middle school competition will also have a round-robin format in the regular season and only four teams will advance to the playoffs. The last pair of elimination matches are tentatively scheduled for Oct. 30, while playoff dates have yet to be determined. In the playoffs, the No. 1 team will take on the No. 4 finisher after the elimination for a finals berth, while the No. 2 and 3 squads will battle for the other finals ticket.



Yankees stagger
Twins for 2-0
ALDS lead

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Davis dominant
in Lakers'
preseason debut

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28 MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

IT&E Light in, Docomo out



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Docomo Pacific's Shane Deleon Guerrero, second left, drives against two RNV Construction defenders during their game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Thursday at the Civic Center Court.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The playoff cast in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League was completed over the weekend with IT&E Light taking the last seat and Docomo Pacific getting the boot.

Docomo seemed to be headed to the postseason after notching two consecutive wins—versus Max's Restaurant last Tuesday, 95-50, and RNV Construction last Thursday, 71-54, before losing their shot at the playoffs after a heart-breaking loss to Light & Salt, 66-71, last Saturday at the

Civic Center Court.

Docomo finished the round-robin elimination with a 4-7 record for ninth place in the team standings. Only the Top 8 will advance to the playoffs and had Docomo won over Light & Salt and IT&E Light lost its last game in the regular season, the former would have gotten the



eightth and final playoff ticket. IT&E Light had a 4-6 record, pending the results of its game against RNV Construction last night.

Light & Salt, which had been boot out of the competition since last week, took Docomo with them for an

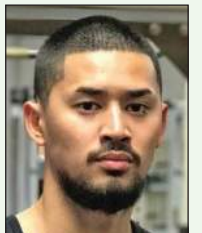
See IT&E on Page 27

Cheat meals

Ask **DRE:**

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.



"I got drunk last night, Dre."

Placing my hand on her shoulder, I said, "Listen, if you and I are going to work together, you have to make an effort in mitigating your alcohol consumption."

Don't take this out of context. I'm all for indulging and being social. In fact, one day isn't going to hurt. But once I told her that, she realized that she wasn't in the right frame of mind yet to fully commit. Clearly, any sort of compromise was out of the question.

Getting in shape is a painstaking process, so it's in your best interest to work on modifying your behaviors because you're delusional if you think you can get away with bad habits over many weeks or months. What's more, it's a horrible dietary strategy to follow - one step forward, two steps back.

Q: I'm not a big eater, but I love sweets and do occasionally drink alcohol. Do I have to cut them out if I really want to get in shape?

A: It always comes as a shock when I tell someone they don't have to alter their lifestyle that much. Yes—there is a measure of discomfort involved, but I encourage people to live and eat like a normal human being because complete rigidity isn't neces-

sary to change your body.

A simple tactic I often recommend is to limit snacking, and have your first two meals to be wholesome and nutritious. Then later in the evening, provided it's kept in reasonable quantities, you can have whatever you want.

Q: I feel like I hit a plateau because my progress has slowed down a bit. Is this normal?

A: It's important to discern how this whole thing works because most still carry the sentiment that their weight spiking up, or moving at a snail's pace is indicative of how much ground their covering. And that's just not the case.

Progress doesn't occur in a straight line. Fluctuations are part of the endeavor, so think of it more as a wavelike approach but with a positive trend. There are a host of factors that influence acute negative responses, sleep and stress being the prime contributors. Don't put too much stock into them. For women, the time of the month should also be taken into consideration.

The takeaway here is, if you're staying active and are consistent with your training, eat reasonably well, and continue to see visible changes, you're on the right track.

Interscholastic Soccer League kicks off

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Northern
Mariana Islands
Football Association

Association kicked off the Interscholastic Soccer League in the middle school and elementary divisions last week.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School players and coach April Liske-Clark pose for a photo after their game against Hopwood Middle School 2 in the opening of the Interscholastic Soccer League last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

